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For an allusion to the story of Reynard the Fox by an English
writer of the twelfth Century see Sources on Shakespeare vol 2. p 346

For a Provençal allusion see Tyrwhitt's Chaucer vol 4. p 229.

Gottsched in his introduction speaking of the German Reineke
quote Morhof as follows "Gryphiander L. I. Cerson.
Legal. C. I. N° 51, nennet den Autor in Ludovicum

Romanum, davon mir gar nicht wissend. ⁹⁴ might he be the author
94- Walshe in Altkmar's preface means Latin the Latin one edited by
none

The most delectable
HISTORY
OF
Reynard the Fox

Newly Corrected and purged from all
grossenesse in Phrase and matter.

As also augmented and enlarged with sundry excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every severall
Chapter.



London, Printed by J. BELL, 1650.

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9.



The Epistle to the Reader.

THou hast here (curteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightful History of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and low stile (couched to the natures of the Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden wisdom, worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course and commercement of thy life and actions; for the aime at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of vice, and the advancement of the good and vertuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath flowne into the world (like *Sibillas's*

The Epistle to the Reader.

loose papers) covered with much obscurity and darkenesse; I have for thy more ease and contentment, to every severall Chapter annexed the Morals and Expositions of such darke places, as may hold thy judgement in seeking to wind out of a labyrinth so darke and curious; A labour which I doubt not but will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray; and as a pleasant companion hold thee with such ~~long~~ full discourse, that thy Journey therein will neither bee long nor irkesome: at which end if it arrive with a faire safety as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this and other mens indeavours.

Farewell.

The



The Pleasant
HISTORY
OF
Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. I.

How the *Lion* proclaimed a solema Feast at his Court, and how *Isegrim* the Wolfe and his Wife, and *Curtis* the Hound, made their first complains of *Reynard* the Fox.

AS ON the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whitson-tide) when the woods are in their lusty-bud and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the greene and whete liberty of glorious leaves, and sweet smelling blossomes, and the earth covered in her fairest mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertaine with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Then at this time and enterance of the lusty Spring, the Lion the Royall King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time withall triumphant ceremonie, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden, & to that end (by solemn Proclamation) makes knowe oer all his Kingdome to all Beast whatsoeuer, that upon paine to be held contemptuous every one should resort to that great celebration: so that within few daies after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great and

The pleasant History

shall come in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himselfe guiltie in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his comming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their severall Complaint against the Fox, but especially Isgrim the Wolfe, who being the first and principallest complainant, came with all his Lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest Soberaigne Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pittie on the great trespasses, and unsufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife and our whole family: of which to give your highness some talie, first know (if it please your Majestie) that this
Reynard

of Reynard the Fox.



Reynard, came in my house by violence, and against the will of
my wife, where finding my children laid in their quiet shou-
he there be-pist them in so ranke a manner, that with the sharp-
ness of his urine they fell instantly blind, for this offence a day
was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse
himselfe, and to take a solemne oath that he was guiltlesse of
that high iniurie: but as soone as the box was tendered before
him (he that well knew his owne guiltinesse) refused to sweare,
and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Ma-
jestie and your Lawes. This (my dread Lord) many of the
noblest Beasts knowe which now are resident in your Court:
For both this alone brouded his malice, but in many other
things he hath trespassed against me, which to relate, neither the
time nor your highnesse patience would give sufferance there-
unto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great that none can exceed
them, and the shame and vilanie he hath done to my wife is
such, that I can neither bide nor suffer it unrevenge, but I
must expect from him amends, and from your Majestie mercy.
When

The Morall.

Howsoever a
vicious man
perswades
himself to es-
cape punish-
ment, by ab-
senting himself
from the pre-
sence of the
Magistrate,
yet he de-
ceives himself,
and by his
contempt a-
nimates his
enemies to be
more bold in
their com-
plaints against
him, as ap-
pears here

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by the Wolfe,
who, although
worse then the
Fox, yet doth
he with his
absence and
the seasona-
bleneſſe of the
time for free
liberty of
ſpeech, take
opportunity
to ſay the
worſt he can
againſt him,
and by his ex-
ample makes
others of fear-
full nature to
do the like.
And therefore
let no wiſe
man ſhrinke
from his juſt
triall, but ei-
ther defend
his own inno-
cence, or elſe
ſubmit to mer-
cy, for dead
men and ab-
ſent, find ſlack
Advocates.

When the Wolfe had ſpoken theſe words, there ſtood by him
a little Hound whoſe name was Curtille, who ſtepping forth,
made likewiſe a grievous complaint (unto the King) againſt
the Fox, ſaying, that in the extreme cold ſeaſon of the Winter
when the froſt was moſt violent, he being halfe ſtarved and de-
tained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to
ſubſtain his life then one peece Pudding; which Pudding (he ſaid)
Reynard had moſt unjuſtly taken away from him.



of Reynard the Fox.

But the Hound could hardly let these words ste from his lips, when with a fierp and angry countenance, in spzang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling downe before the King, said, My Lord the King, I must confesse the Fox is here grieuously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions searcht, each would hope enough to do for him when clearing. Touching the complaint of Curtille the Hound, it was an offence committed many years ago, and though I my self complaine of no injury yet was the Budding mine and not his: for I toan it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep, so that if Curtille could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine, Tibert, that it were a iust or a good course that Reynard shou'd not be complained upon: why the whole world knows he is a murderer, a rafter and a thief, and that indeed he lobeth not truly any creature, no not his Majesty himself, but would faine his highnesse do lose both Honour and renown, so that he might thereby attaine to himself but so much as the legge of a faine Hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterdai to Kyward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings protection, he promised unto Kyward, that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplaine, he made him come in therfore his leggs and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo: my way late thereby and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kyward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kyward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and prophand your dignity, and doing so right according to the judgement of your Lawes, your Princely children manie years hereafter shall bear the slander of his evill. Certainly Panther (said I. grim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice that desire to live in peace.

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CH A P. 2.

How *Grimbard* the Brock spake for *Reynard* before the King.

Then spake *Grimbard* the Brocke (that was *Reynards* sisters Sonne) being much moved with anger: *Isegrim*



of Reynard the Fox.

you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb: Mallice never spake well? what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most injured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a felon: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in the Kings favour as you are, it would be much too little satisfaction for you to aske him mercy: you have many times bitten and torne my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and ofner much then I can reckon, yet some I will call up to my remembrance.

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaise which he threwo downe from the Cart, when you followed a horse for fear? yet you deboured the good Plaise alone, and gave him no more but the great bones which you could not eate your self: the like you did with the fat sitch of Bacon, whose taste was so good, that your self alone did eat it up, and when my uncle asked his part, you answered him with scozne, Feire young man thou shalt have thy share: but he got not any thing, albeit he wonne the Bacon with great fear and hazard, for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a snare, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of these injuries hath Isgrim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships judge if they be sufferable: againe he complaineth that my kinsman hath wrong'd him in his wife: 'tis true, and I confesse Reynard hath laine with her, yet it was seven years before Isgrim did wed her, and if my uncle out of courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of the soze, nor ought he to complaine of any thing not belonging to him; wisdome would have concealed it, for what credit gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is ungrieved?

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seemes but a trifle, for if he will learn to read, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the Schoole-master Reynard, if he gibe him due correction? for if scholers be not beaten and chastised they will never learn.

Lastly complaineth Curtise that he with great paine had
 gotten

The Morall.

Vice is never without his advocate, and be a man never so lewde, yet he shall still find one or other to plead for him, especially where there is either greatnesse or wealth in the offender, or any allience of blood to those in favour, as appears here by the Bruck, which pleads for the Fox, first because he was of his kin, and next he was rich & able to pleasure him; lastly, here is to be observed the insinuation of the Advocate, excusing the Foxes faults with a new forme or penitence, cloaking the ill he had done with zeal and hypocrisie, then the which no

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thing sooner
brings a good
man to be-
liefe and for-
givenesse.

gotten a Pudding in the winter, being a season in which but-
trials are hard to find: me thinks silence would have become
him better, for he had stolne it: & Male quæsit, & male per-
didisti, 'tis fit it be evil lost was evil wonne, who can blame
Reynard to take stolne goods from a thief? It is reason that
he which understands the Law and can discern right, being
of great and high birth as my kinsman is, do right unto the
law. Nay had he hang'd up Curlew when he took him with the
manner, he had offended none but the King in doing Justice
without leafe; wherefore for respect to his Majestie he did it
not, though he reapt little thanks for his labour: alas how
do these complaints hurt him? mine uncle is a Gentleman
and a true man, nor can he endure falshood, he doth nothing
without the counsell of his Priest: and I affirme, since my
Uncle the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought to hurt
any man: for he eateth but once a day, he lieth as a Recluse,
he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of haire-cloth: it is
nowe a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly in-
formed by them which came but yesterday from him) he hath
dislaid his Castle Malepardus, and abandoned all royaltie,
a poore hermitage retains him, hunting he hath forsogone, and
his wealth he hath scattered, living onely by Almes and good
monks charities; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he
is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for he
would faine be with God.

Thus whilst Grimbard his nephew stood preaching, they
perceived coming down the hill unto them, four Chante-
cleere the Cock, who brought upon a Beere a dead Ven, of
whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought to
the King to have knowledge thereof.

C H A P. 3.

How Chanteclere the Cock complained of Reynard
the Foxe.

CHANTECLERE marched foremost, smote pitiously his
hands and feathers, whilst on the other side the Beere went
two:



two forsoothfull Hens, the one was Tantart, the other the good
 Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Hol-
 land and Arden; these Hens bore each of them a straight bright
 burning Taper, and these Hennes were sisters to Coppell
 (which lay dead on the Bêre) and in the marching they cried
 piteously, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppell our
 deare

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The Morall.

When wicked men cannot compasse their wickedness by strong hand, or violence against their enemies; then they study deceits and shifts to entangle them: of all which none is so powerfull as the shew of Religion: for that working upon the easie belief of the simple, makes them many times shippe themselves into those rough Seas whence there is no help but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to believe the subtil Fox. Also in this a man may see, that though an evill man may be now and then excused of some faults, yet still his finnes will so dog him at the heels that

Dear sister. Two young Hens bare the beere, which cackled so heavily, and wept so leud for the death of Coppel their mother, that the hills gave an eccho to their clamour: thus being come before the King, Chanteclere kneeling downe, spake in this manner.

Most mercifull and my great Lord the King, your grace, I beseech you, to hear our complaint, and redresse those injuries which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my children that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty sir) that in the beginning of Aprill, when the weather was faire, I being then in the height of my pride and glory, because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight excellent sonnes, and seaven faire daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a park well walled and fenced round about, wherein they had a verall fledge for their guard five stout mastiffe dogges, which had togne the skinneres of many wild Beasts, so that my children feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling traitor, enuying their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the wallee, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogges divers times were let forth unto him and hunted him away; yea once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price for his theft, and his togne skinner tommelled, yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pittie; yet we were quit of his trouble a great while after: at last he came in the likeness of an Hermite, and brought me a letter to read, sealed with your Majesties Seale, in which I found written, that your Highnesse had made peace throughout all your Realme, and that no manner of Beast or Fowle should do injury one to another, affirming unto me, that for his own part he was become a Monk or Cloystered Recluse, bowing to performe a daily penance for his finnes; shewing unto me his beads, his books, and the faire shirt next to his skinner, saying in humble wise unto me, Sir Chaunteclere, never henceforth be afraid of me, for I have vowed nevermore to eat flesh.

I am

of Reynard the Fox.

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in the end he shall be discovered and lie open to Law and punishment, as now it happened to the Fox, notwithstanding the Brocks excuse and maintenance.

I am now hart old; and would onely remember my foule, therefore I take my leabe: for I have yet my noon and my even-song to say: which spake, he departed, saying his Credo as he went, and laied him down under a Barbozne: at this I was exceeding glad, that I tooke no heed, but went and clocked my children together, and washed without the wall, which

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which I shall eber rue, for false Reynard lying under a bush came creeping betwixt us and the gate: and suddaintly surprized one of my children, which he trust up in his male and boze away to my great sorrow, for habing tasted the sweetnesse of our flesh, neither hunter, nor hound can protect or keep him from us: night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my children he hath left me but foure unslaughtered, and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which here lieth dead on this Beere) was (after her murder) by a kermel of hounds rescued from him: This is my complaint, and this I leabe to your highnes mercy to take pity of me, and the losse of my faire children.

C H A P. 4.

The Kings answer to the *Cocks* Complaint, and how they sung the *Dirge*.

The Morall.

Here those that excuse bad actions, may see, how such offices returne to disgrace, because evill mens vices being disclosed, the excuses are their shames that make them, as it hapned now to the Brock. Also in the Lion may be seen the effects of a good disposition, which is exprest in the

Then spake the King, Sir Grimbard, hear you this of your uncle the Becluse: he hath fasted and prayed well: well, belebe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as for you Chauntecleere, your complaint is heard and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right of burial, and with solemne Dirges bring her to the earth with worship; which finished, we will consult with our Lords, how to do you right and Justice against the murtherer. When began the Placebo Domine with all the verses belongitg to it, which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Dirge was done, the bodie was enterr'd, and upon it a faire Marble stone laid, being polished as bright as glasse; in which was ingraben in great letters this inscription following, Coppel Chanteclers daughter whom Reynard the Fox hath slain lieth here buried; mourn thou that readeit it, for her death was unjust and lamentable. After this the King sent for his Lords and wisest Councellors to consult how this foul murder of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard shou'd be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King to answer those cruel charges.

of Reynard the Fox.

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honours and rights of Buriall do ne to the Henne, which is a part of satisfaction for the griefe her kin indured; in the Bears willingnesse to fetch the Fox, is exprest how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing that may offend his adversary, and how commonly such employments miscary.



Should be objected against him, and that this message should be delivered by Bruine the Weare: to all this the king gave consent; calling him before him, said, sir Bruine, it is our pleasure that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have great regard to your self, for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray, he hath a world of snares to intangle you withall, and without great exercise of judgement, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdomes

C

brea-

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breathing. My Lord (answered Sir Bruine) let me alone with Reynard, I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a meek to his knavery: and thus full of solty the Bear departed: if his return be as joviall, there is no fear in his well feeding.

CHAP. 5.

How *Bruine* the Beare sped with *Reynard* the Fox.



of Reynard the Fox.

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THE next morning away went Bruine the Beare in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever, and as hee came through a darke Forrest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, hee saw a high mountaine, over which hee must passe to goe to Malepardus: for though Reynard had manie houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefeft and most ancient Castle, and in it he laie both for defence and ease: So at last when Bruine was come to Malepardus, he found the Gates close shut, at which after hee had knocked (sitting on his taile) hee called aloud, Sir Reynard are you at home? I am Bruine your kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foule accusations exhibited against you, and hath taken a great bold, that if you faile to appeare to this summon, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highnesse mercy: Therefore faire kinsman, hee advised by your friend, and goe with me to the Court to shunne the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the Gate (as his custome was for the warme Sunne sake) hearing those words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of manie intricate and curious doomes, (which laburth-wise hee could passe thorow, when either his danger or the benefit of any paine required the same) where meditating a while with himselfe how hee might counterplot and bring the Beare to disgrace (whom hee knew loved him not) and himselfe to honour, at last he came forth, and said, Deare uncle Bruine, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slothfulness in coming, for at your first speech I was saying my Even-song: and devotion must not be neglected: believe me hee hath done you no good service, nor doe I thank him which hath sent you this wearie and long journey, in which your much sweat and toyle farre exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow bene at the Court of my obone accord, yet at this time my way is much lessened, in as much as your counsaile at this present may returne me double benefit: alas cousin, could his majesty finde no meaner a

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The Myrall.

In this encounter between the Fox and the Beare, is exprest the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other

messenger then your noble selfe to imploie in these tribiall affaires? truelie it appeares strange to me: especially since next his royall selfe, you are of greatest renowne both in blood and riches: for my part I would bee there both at Court, for I feare our journey will bee exceeding troublesome: for to speake troth, since I made mine abstinence from flesh, I have eaten such strange new meates, that my bodie is verie much dis tempered, and swelleth as if it would breake. **Alas** deare cousin (said the Beare) what meate is that which maketh you so ill? **Whele** (answered he) what will it profit you to know: the meat was simple and meane; for poore men are no Lords, you know, but eat that for necessitie, which others eat for wantonnesse: yet not to delate you; that which I eat was honey-combs, great, full, and most pleasant, which compelled by hunger, I eat too unmeasurably, and am thereby infinitely dis tempered. **Ha** (quoth Bruine) honey-combs: doe you make such slight respect of them. **Aspheto**: why it is meate for the greatest Emperour in the world: **Faire Aspheto**,

of Reynard the Fox.

phelo; helpe me but to some of that honey, and commind me
whilst I live, for one little part thereof, I will be your servant
everlastingly. Sure said the For (Uncle) you but jest with
me: But jest with you (replied Bruine) be it to my heart then:
for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick thereof, you
shall make me the faithfulest of all your kindred. Nay (said the
For) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you to where
so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a
meale, onlie for your love sake, which above all things I de-
sire, Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Beare?) it is impossible:
for had I all the honie betwixt Hibla and Portugall, yet I
could in a short space eat it all my selfe. Then know Uncle
(quoth the For) that neere at hand here dwelleth a husband-
man named Lanfert, who is master of so much honie, that you
cannot consume in seven peeres, which for your love and friend-
ship sake, I will put into your safe possession. Bruine mad
upon the honie, swore, that to have but one good meale thereof
he would not onlie be his faithfull friend, but also stoppe the
mouthes of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his easie
beliefe, said, If you will have seven turnes Uncle, you shall have
it. These words pleased the Beare so well, and made him so
pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well thought the For, this is good fortune, sure I will lead
him to where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said,
Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no paine for
your sake, which for none of my kinne I would performe,
The Beare gave him manie thanks, and so away they went,
the For promising him as much honie as he could beare, but
meant as manie strokes as hee could undergee: in the end
they came to Lanferts house, the sight whereof made the Bear
rejoyce. This Lanfert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who
the other daie had brought into his Yard a great Oake, which
(as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it
two wedges; in such wise, that the cleft stood a great while
open: at which the For rejoyced much, for it was answerable
to his wish, so that with a laughing countenance he said to the
Beare, Behold now beare Uncle, and be carefull of your

mischief:
wherein
though the
wisest com-
monly get the
victory at first,
yet the just
cause in the
end prevaleth
In the Beares
greedines to
eat honey is
express, the la-
scivious incon-
stancy of a
loose and un-
restrained na-
ture, that for
a minutes in-
joying of their
own delights
quite forget
the busines &
cares they have
in hand. In the
Fox is express
the cunning of
wisdom, which
ever cast
out (to loose
natures) those
baits of de-
light, which
being swallow-
ed with gree-
dinesse, do ever
choak the
swallower, as
appeareth by
the Bear who
is not

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onely wounded, and in danger of his life, but afterwards made a mocke and scorne to his enemies. Al'so by the cruelty used on the Beare by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, how every one of what degree soever, from the highest to the lowest, are ready to persecute and revenge themselves for the ills they have received.



resse, for within this tree is so much bonie, that it is unmeasurable, trie if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eat moderately: for albeit the combs are sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your bodie, which I would not for a world, since no harme can come to you, but must be my dishonour. Sozrobo not for me, Repweto Reynard
(said)

of Reynard the Fox.

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said the Bear) noz thinke me such a foole that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true my best Uncle, I was to bold, I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with all haste entred the tree, with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite ober the ears: which when the Fox perceived; he instantly ran and pulled the wedges out of the tree, so that he lockt the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery noz anger abailed the Beare, for the Phephey had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so false a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas, what profitd now his great strength and valour: why they were both causes of moze vexation: and finding himself destitute of all relief, he began to howle and bray, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise, that Lanfert amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharp hooke, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a far off seeing, he said to the Bear in scorn, Is the honey good (Uncle) which



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not eat? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you: pleasant things are apt to surfer, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full) he will give you drinke to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards his Castell. But by this time, Lanfer finding the Bear fast taken in the tree: he ran to his neighbours and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there. Which being noised thorow all the Towne, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither. Some with one weapon, and some with another; as Goads, Rakes, Broomstaves, or what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Crosse: the Clarke, the holy-water sprinkled, and the Priests wife Dame Jullocke with her distaffe, for she was then spinning: nay, the old Widdowes came that had nere a tooth in their heads. This army put Bruine into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundering upon him, he wastled and pulled so extremely, that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also: in so much that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast, for the blood covering all his face, and his hands leaving the clottes and skin behind them, nothing remained but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to, for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be cudgell'd him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all his misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the wals: This the Bear found by experience; for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked legge, and Ludolfe with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden malle, and the other with an Iron whip, all to be lashed poore sir Bruine, not so much but sir Bertolfe with the long fingers, Lanfert and Ortam did him more annoyance then all the rest, the one having a sharp Welch hook: the other a crooked staffe well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stab-ball with-
all,

all, there was Birkin, and Armes-Ablequak, Bane the Priest
with his staffe, and Dame Jullocke his wife, all these so be-
lour'd the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poore
Bear in this Passacre sate and sigbed extreamly, groaning
under the burthen of their strokes, of which Lanferts were the
greatest and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of
Calport was his Mother, & his Father was Marob & Steple-
maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine recei-
ved of him many showers of stones till Lanferts Brother rush-
ing before the rest with a staffe, strooke the Bear in the head
such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see, so that awa-
king from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the Riber
adjoining, through a cluster of wives there standing together,
of which he threw divers into the water which was large and
deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one; which the
Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking
the Bear, and cried to the rest of the company, help, oh help,
Dame Jullocke is in the water, help both men and women,
for whosoever saves her, I give free pardon of all their sinnes
and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever:
this heard, every one left the Bear to help Dame Jullocke,
which as soone as the Bear saw, he cut the stream and swam
away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise
pursued him, crying in his rage; Turne villaine, that I may be
revenge'd of thee, but the Bear swam in the strength of the
streame and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he
was so escaped from them: onely he bitterly curst the Honey
tree and the Fox, which had not onely betrayed him, but had
made him lose his hood from his face, and his gloves from his
fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles downe the wa-
ter, in which time he grew so weary, that he went on land to
get ease, where blood trickled down his face, he groaned, sigbed,
and drew his breath so short, as if his last houre had been ex-
piring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in
his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his male, and
running thorow a by-path that no man might perceiue him,
he came towards the Riber with infinite joy: for he suspected

The pleasant History

that the Bear was certainly slaine; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wist it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead, nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof: but as he spake these words, looking towards the River, he espied where Bruine the Bear lay and rested, which struck his heart with grief, & he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, Silly foole that thou art, what mad man would have lost such good benifiton, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no paines, for he was taken to his hand, any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding, he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was onely guilty, yet in scoone he said to the Bear, Mon Sire, Dieu vous garde. O thou foule red billaine, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like to this? but he forwent on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanferte, or have you paid him for the honey-combes you stole? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self, sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same price; Good Uncle, tell me before I goe, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new-fashioned Hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaved your crown, hath cropped your ears, also your fore-top is lost, and your globes are gone, the women go not bare-headed, they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talke his pleasure: then after a small rest he plunged againe into the River, and swam down the streame, and landed on the other side, where he began with much griefe to meditate how he might get to the Court, for he had lost his ears, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deathes followed him, he could not go, and yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over, so by degrees tumbling now halfe a mile, and then half a mile, in the

the end he tumbled to the Court, where divers beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is sir Bruine my serbant, what villains have wounded him thus, or where hath he ben that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Soveraigne. Lord the King (cried out the Beare) I complaine me grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your ropall pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my crowne I swear I will take the revenge which shall make the traytors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Councell, and consulted, how, and in what sort to persecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be againe summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the parties to summon him, they appointed to be, Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

Then the King called for Sir Tybert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tybert, you shall go to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruell to other beasts, yet to you he is courteous, assure him if he saile at your first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him and his posterity, that his example shall terrifie all offenders. Then said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus abused you, for there is nothing in me, that can force him either to come or tarry: I beseech your Majestie send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruine, tht is so strong & mighty, could not intee him, what will my weaknesse availe? The King replied, It is your wis-
dome,

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The Morall.

By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is exprest the care of Governours, that when they have been deceived by the pride & ostentation of such as they did employ, and thought discreet; that then they seek out those that are knowne wise and employ them, because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdom. In the Cats much lothness to go, is exprest, the unwillingnes a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them, yet when authority commands, they

doe, Sir Tibert, I imploie, and not your strength, and man's prebailie to thy Art, when violence returnes with lost labour. Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heauen make my fortune better then my heart presageeth. This Tibert made things in readiness, and went towards Mallepardus, and in his iournie, he saw come flying towards him one of Saints Martins Birds, to whom the Cat, cried aloud, Haile gentle bird, I beseech thee turne thy wings and sitte on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrarie way; and flew on his left side, then greto the Cat very heauie for he was wise and skilfull in Augurisme and knew the signe to be ominous, nevertheless (as many doe) he armed himself with better hope, and went to Mallepardus; where hee found the Fox standing before his Castle gates, to whom Tibert said Heaile to my faire cousin Reynard: so it is that the King by me summons you to the Court, in which if you faile or deferre time, there is nothing more assured unto you, then a cruell and a suddain death. The Fox answered, welcome deare cousin Tibert, I obey your command, and wish my Lord the King infinite daies of happinesse, onely let me intreate you to rest with me to night, and take such cheare as my simple house affordeth, and to morrow as earlie as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no kinsman I trust so dearely as your selfe. Here was with me the other day the treacherous knight Sir Bruine the Beare, who lookt upon me with that tyrannous crueltie, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire have hazarded my person with him, but my deare cousin, with you I will goe, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert replied, You speake like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now to goe forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Say deare cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we incounter with our friends: the night is full of danger and suspicion. Well, said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truste my store is small, the best I have is a honie combe, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replieth, it is meat I little respect and seldom eat: I had rather have one spouse then all the honie in.

of Reynard the Fox.

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in Europe. A mouse said Reynard) why my deare cou'in, here dwelleth a Priest heard by, who hath a Barne by his house so full of mice, that I thinke halfe the Vicarines in the Parish are not able to beare them. O deare Reynard (quoth the Cat) doe but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why (said the Fox) but I be you mice so exceedingly? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond Wenison of the delicatest Cates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you slain my father, my mother, and all my kinne, I would clea-
must obey
though never
so many dan-
gers attend
them.
 lie forgive you.

C H A P. 7.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the Fox.

THE said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. No by my life, said the Cat. Well then. (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so worke that this night I will fill your belly; 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me, said the Fox: for I will bring you to the place presently: thus awaite they went with all speed to the Priest's Barne, which was well walled about with a mudd wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stolne from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angrie, that he had set a grin of snare before the hole to catch him at his next coming, which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creepe in at this hole, and beleeve it you shall not tarrie a minutes space, but you shall have more since then you are able to devour: hark, you may heare how they peepe: when your bellie is full, come againe, and I will stae and awaite for you here at this hole, that to morrow we maie go together to the Court: but good cou'in, stae not too long, for I know, my wife will hourly expect us. Then (said the Cat) thinke you I maie safelie enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise, and subtil, and couch
their.

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their danger of close, that rashness is soon overtaken. My
 cousin Tibert, (said the Fox) I never saw you turne coward
 before; what man, fear you a Madeto? The Cat assumed
 at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was present-
 ly caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the
 Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back againe: so that
 the

of Reynard the Fox.

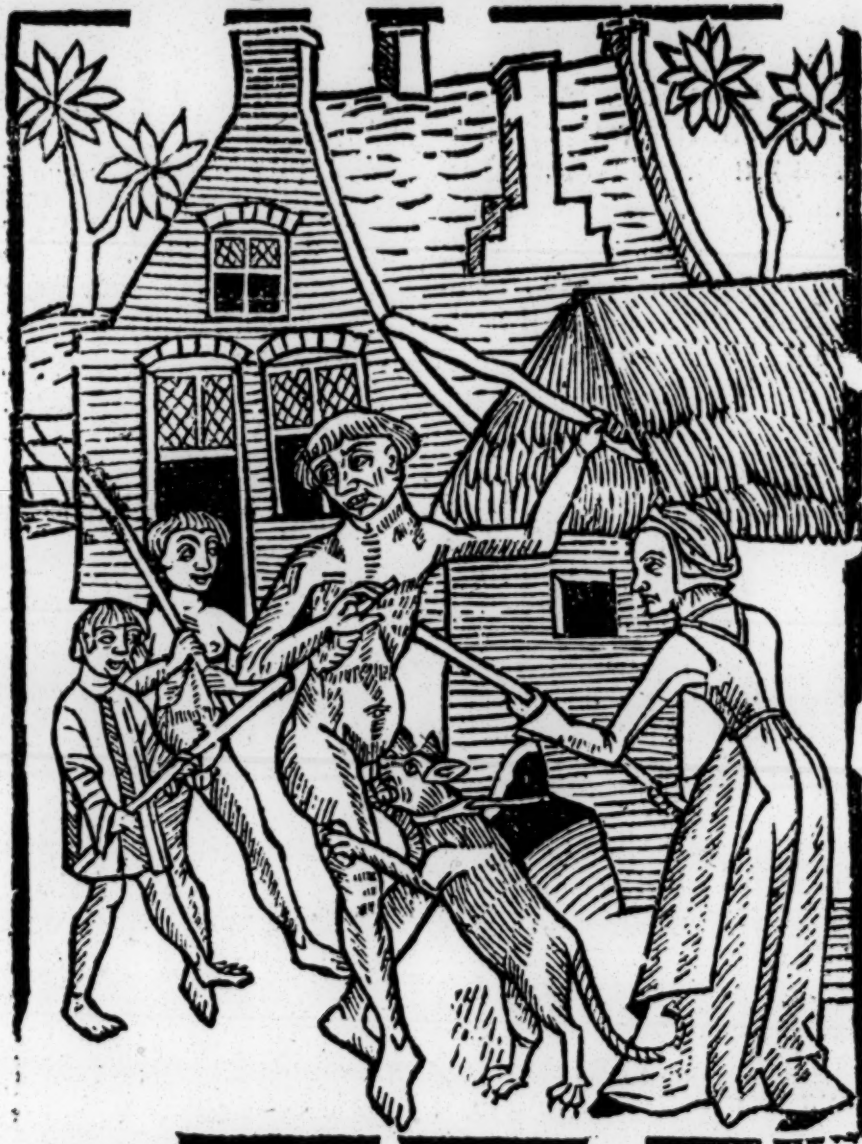
the snare running close together, he was halfe strangled, so that he began to struggle, and crie out & exclaime most piteously, Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which hee infinite lye rejoyceth, and in great scozne said, Cousin Tybert, tobe you wice? I hope they be well fed for your sake; knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would bring you sauce quicklie; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion? if it be, I would I & grim the Wolfe were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together: but all this while the poore Cat was fast and mewed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of bed, and cried to his people: Arise, for the thief is taken that had stolne our Hens: With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up and awaked all in his house, crying, The Fox is taken, the Fox is taken! and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullocke his wife an Offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tibert, he smote him with a great staffe, and after him many other: so that the Cat received many deadly blowes, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he stroke out one of the Cats eyes; which he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats braines: But the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legges, and with his clawes and teeth so fastned on his genitals, that in all the great Turkes Seralia, there was not a clearer Cunnich: which when Dame Jullocke his wife saw, she cried out and swore she had rather have lost the whole Offerings of seven years, then that one poore little morsel: and withall curst that eber the Gain was indented, and calling Martinet, See, my son, this was thy Fathers delight and my Well: but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my utter losse for eber: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable. All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extreamply, that his body was ready to break: saying to Dame Jullocke, Fie woman, do not torment your selfe so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive due benevolence:

The Morall.

By the Fox insnaring of the Cat is expressed, how when wise men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled Friends, they evermore miscarry in their designs; and therefore every wise man should so temper his affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power; How agreeable soever it be either with his Nature or his power. For by the baits of an enemy are onely gilded pills, which are faire to locke on, but most bitter to taste; By the mischief which the Priest received, is shewed that they which harme watch, harme catch, and that

The pleasant History

the trap which
men now and
then set for o-
thers brings
hurt to them-
selves.



violence : there is manie a Chappell in tobieh but one Bell
rings. Nowe whilest the Fox thus trocled the Priest's wife.
the pooze Priest fell downe in a swoone : so that euerie man
left the Cat, to rebide the Priest : tobieh whilest they were
doing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope to escape : but the pooze Cat
singing

of Reynard the Fox.

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seeing all her foes buſſe about the Priest, ſhe presently began to gnaw and bite the corde, till ſhe had ſheared it quite aſunder in the miſt: which done, ſhe leapt out of the hole and went roaring & ſtumbling (like the Beare) to the Kings Court. But beſore he got thither, it was faire daie, and the Sunne being riſen, he entred the Court, like the pittifulleſt beaſt that euer was beheld; For by the Foxes craft his bodie was beaten and bzuiſed, his bones ſhivered and broken; one of his eyes loſt and his ſkinne rent and mangled. This when the King beheld & ſaw Tibert ſo pittifully mangled, he grew infinitelie angry and took counſaile once moze, how to rebenge the injuries upō the Fox. After ſome conſultation, Grimbart the Brocke, Reynards Siſters ſon, ſaide to the reſt of the Kings Counſaile, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice ſo evill as thoſe cōplaints make him; yet there is remedie enough againſt his miſchiefs: therefore it is fit you doe him juſtice as to a man of his ranck, which is, he muſt be the thirde time ſummoned, & if then he appeare not, make him guiltie of all that is laid againſt him. Then the King demanded of the Brocke, whom he thought fitteſt to ſummon him, or who would be ſo desperate to hazard his hands, his eares, nay his life with ſo tyrannous and irreligious? Trulie (answered the Brocke) if it pleaſe your Ma- jeſtie, I am that desperate perſon, who dare adventure to carry the meſſage to my moſt ſubtil kinſman, if your highneſſe but command me.

CHAP. 8.

How Grimbard the Brocke was ſent to bid the Fox to the Court.

Then ſaid the King, Go Grimbart, for I command you; yet take heed of Reynard, for he is ſubtil and malicious. The Brocke thanked his Maſterie, and ſo taking humble leave, went to Mallepardus, where he found Reynard & Ermelin his wife, ſporting with their young whelps; then having ſaluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he ſaid: Take heed faire Uncle, that
C
your

Well
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man
were
nagt.
Cat
king

The pleasent History

The Morall.

In the sending of the Brocke to fetch the Fox, is shewed that when the vicious cannot be overtaken & brought to answer, then it is meete to use their owne weapons against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done then by imploying their kindred, and such as they most dearely affect to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your absence from the Court adde not more mischief to your cause, then the offence doth deserue : beleeue, it is high time you appeare at the Court, since your delate doth beget but more danger and punishment, the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of Summon ; Therefore your wisdome may tell you, that if you delate but one daie further,



there

of Reynard the Fox.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy: for within three daies your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publique example. Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and go with me presently to the Court, I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you; For you have past thozow many as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Innocence of your cause hath b'ene you spotlesse from the Tribunal. Reynard answered; Nephew, you say true and I will be advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but in that I know, the Court stands in need of my counsell; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majestie, though mine offences were tenne times doubled, for I know the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his highnes understand truly, though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not: for mine Innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know what in high matters of State and policy, Reynard cannot be missing: they may well harp upon things, but the pitch and ground must come from my relation: it is the envie of others hath made me leaue the Court, for though I know, their shallownes cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppresse me; Nevertheless (Nephew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Childzen: the King is too mighty, and though he do me injury, yet will I bear it with patience. This spake, he turn'd to his wife and said, Dame Ermelin have care of my childzen, especially Reynikin my youngest Son, for he had much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps: also Rossal is passing hopeful, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I escape doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leaue-taking Ermelin wept, and her childzen howled: for their Lord and victualer was gone, and Malcopardus left unpobided.

The pleasant History

C. H A P. 9.

*How Reynard shrove him to Grimbert the Brock.**The Morall.*

The shrift of the Fox shewed, that when evill men are in danger, then they ever find most religion and by a shew of penitence win pittie from those that dive not into the depth of their deceit & knavery, whereby though they be never so evill, yet they get a good name, & steale opinion of the multitude. By the absolution which the Brocke gave the Fox, is shewed, how easily an honour simple man may be brought to believe a knaves penance, and how apt they are to forgive trespasses upon

WHEN Reynard and Grimbert had gone a good way on their journey Reynard stayed and said, Dear Prophet, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in great hazard, yet to blot out my finnes with repentance, and to cast off the burthen, give me leave to shewe my selfe unto you; I know you are holy, and having received penance for my sin, my soule will be at quiet. Grimbert had him proceed, Then said the Fox, Confitebor tibi pater. Nay said the Brock, if you will shewe you to me, doe it in English, that I may understand you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live, and especiall mine Uncle Bruine the Beare, whom I lately massacred, then Tibert the Cat whom I insnared in a grin. I have trespassed against Chauntecleer & his Childzen, and have deboured many of them; nay, the King hath not been quiet of my malice, for I have slandered him and his Quene, I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolfe, & called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ranne in my veines: I made him a sponke of Elmane, where I became also one of the order onelie to doe him open mischiefes. I made him binde his feet to a bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the peale had like to have cost him his life, the men of the parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and feeleth the stripes at this instant. I led him to steale Bacon at a rich Priest's house, where he fed so extremitie, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Toton upon him; and then went where the Priest was set at meat with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatcht away, so that the Priest cried out kill the Fox, for never man saw thing so strange, so that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meat from before me.

This is a boldnesse beyond knowledge: and with these wordes he threwo his knife at me, but he mist me, and I ranne away whilist



fained sorrow
which indeed
should not be
done without
a more strict
& severe exa-
mination. The
Foxes leading
the Brock by
the monestery,
and taking the
Capon, shew-
eth that where
wickednesse is
rooted and
made as it
were a habit,
that there not-
withstanding
all hypocrisie,
it will flash
out, and a
knave will be
a knave in de-
spight of all
perswasions &
good counsell.

whilist he pursued me crying, Kill the Fox, Kill the Fox, and
after him a world of people, whom I lead to the place where
Issegim was, and there I let the Henne fall, for it was too
heavie for me (yet much against my will) and then springing
through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took
up the Henne, he espied Issegim, and then cried out, Strike
friends

The pleasant History



friends, strike, here is the Wolfe, by no means let him escape
us: When the people ran altogether with clubs and staves,
and with a dreadfull noise giving the poore Wolfe many a
deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such
mortal blowes on the body, that the Wolfe fell down as if he
had bin dead, which perceiv'd, they took him & drag'd him by the
hales

beeles ober stockes and stones, and in the end threth him into
a ditch without the village, and there he laie all night, but
how he got thence I knowe not. Another time I led him to a
place where I told him were seven Hennes and a Cock, set on
a pearch all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a fall
doore, on which we climed : then I told him if he would creepe
in at the doore, he should finde the Hennes. When I segim with
much joy went laughing to the doore, and entring in a little, and
groping about, he said Reynard, you abuse me, for here is no-
thing ; then replied I, Uncle, they are further, and if you will
have them, you must adventure for them : those which used to
sit there, I my selfe had long since : at this the Wolfe going
a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down
in the vault, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise
that they which were asleepe in the house, awaked and cried,
that something was fallen down at the trap doore : whereupon
they arose and lighted a candle and esping him, they beate and
wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolfe to many
hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or
reckon, which as they come to my minde, I will reveale to you
hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Ar-
sewind his wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly
to her dishonour. Uncle said Grimbart, I understand you not,
you make your shift unperfect, for you say you have offended,
but declare not in what. Pardon me, Nephew, I knowe you
hate to heare dishonour of women : the truth is, I have laine
with her. Thus have I told you my wickednesse, now order
my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Grimbart was
both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree,
and said, Nephew, You shall three times strike your bodie
with this rod, and then laie it downe upon the ground, and
spring three times ober it without bowing your legges or
stumbling : then shall you take it up and kisse it gently in signe
of meekenesse and obedience to your penance : which done, you
are absolved of your sinnes committed this date, for I pro-
nounce unto you cleare remission. At this the Fox was excee-
ding glad, and then Grimbart said unto him ; See that hence
forth

The pleasant History

forth Uncle you good workes, reade your Psalter, goe to Church, fast vigils, keepe holie daies, giue almes, and leaue your sinfull and ebill life, your theft, and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attaine mercy. The Fox promised to performe all this, and so they went together towards the Court: but a little besides the waie as they went, stood a religious house of Nuns, where many Geese, Hennes and Capons went without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grim-bard out of his right waie to that place, & finding the Pullain walking without the Warne, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellowes: at which hee suddainlie leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his eares; but the Capon escaped: to which Grimbart seeing, said, Accursed man, what will you doe, will you for a sillie Pullet fall again into all your sinnes? mischiefe it selfe would not doe it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me deare Repheto, I had forgotten my selfe, but I will aske forgiveness, and mine eye shall no moze wander: and then they turned ober



a little

a little Bridge: but the Fox still glaunched his eye towards the Pullaine, and could by no meanes refraine it, for the ill that was bzied in his bones, still stuck to his flesh, and his minde carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Wocke noting, said, Fie, dissembling coulin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullaine? The Fox replied, Nephew, you doe me injurie so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandzed not, but I was saying a Pater noster for the soules of all the Pullaine and Gæfe which I have slaine and betraied, in which debotion you hindzed me. Well, said Grimbart, it may be so, but your glaunces are suspitions. Now by this time they were come into the way againe, and made hast towards the Court, which asson as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer for they were infinite and haprous.

CHAP. 10.

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excused himselfe:

As soone as it was bzuted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, compared himself to cōplain of the Fox: at which Rynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garbe, and he went as prouddie as ever he was wont with his nephew thzough the high stræt, and came as gallantie into the Court, as if he had been the Kings sonne, and as cleare from trespasse, as the most innocent whosoever: and when he came befoze the chaire of State, in which the King late, he said, Heaben gibe your Majestie glorie and renou a-boue all the Princes of the earth: I assure your highnesse there was never King had a truer serbant then my selfe have beene to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be manie in this Court that seeke my confusion, if they could winne belæse with your Majestie; but your scozne the slaunders of malice, and although in these

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dates

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*The Morall.*

In the Foxes
appearing at
the Court is
shewed, that
when a male-
factor is
brought before
the Justice
that then is the
fit time for all
men that have
bin injured, to
utter their
complaints,

dapes flatters have the most roomes in Princes Courts, yet
with you it is not so, nor shall they reape any thing but shame
for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words,
and said, Peace, trayterous Reynard, I know your dissimu-
lation, and can expound your flatterie, but both shall now faile
you: thinke you I can be caught with the musick of your
words?

of Reynard the Fox.

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words : no, it hath too oft deceived mee : the peace with I commanded and swoze unto, that have you broken. And as hee would have gone forward, Chauntecleere crying out, O how have I lost this noble peace? Be still Chauntecleere (said the King) and then he proceeded, Thou devil among good ones, with what face canst thou saie thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched creatures readie to disprove thee, whose very wounds yet spit bloodie defiance upon thee : and for which beleve thy dearest life shall answer. In nomine patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruines covone be bloodie, what is that to me? if your Majestie imploied him in a message. and hee would neglect it to steale honie at the Carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? if rebege he sought why did he not take it himselfe? he is strong and puissant, it was not for to be lookt for at my wickednesse. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or advice, will steale into the Priest barne to catch spire and there lose his eyes, nay his life; wherein is mine offence, or how become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may doe your royall pleasure, and howe ever mine innocence plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you : I am your vassalle, and have no support but your mercy : I know your strength and mine own weaknesse, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction, yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram stept forth, and his Owe-dame Oleway, and he sought the King to heare their complaint; with them Bruine the Beare and all his mighty linage; And Tibert the Cat Igrim the Wolfe, Kyward the Hare, & Panther the Boze, the Cammel and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Goat, Bauldwin the Ass, Bortel the Bul, and Hamell the Ox, the Wassel, Chauntecleere the Cock, & Pattlet with all her children. All these with one entire noyse cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaints, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

because then-
onely redress
is to bee had
In the Lyonis
expresseth the
lawfulness of
Justice, and
how terrible it
is to every of-
fender, especi-
ally such as
have the guilt
of Conscience
with in them.
The Foxes
bold behavi-
our shewes,
that impudent
malefactors
when they are
called in ques-
tion, make
audacity their
chiefe guard,
and by rayling
against their
adversaries,
doe seeke to
extenuate the
loosenesse of
their offences,
but truth and
justice will not
bee hood-
winckr.

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CHAP. II.

How the Fox was arrested and judged to death.

VPOON this arrest a Parliament was called, and ebery voice went th t Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding he answered ebery objection feberally, though great Art was used both in one and the other; to the wonderfull admiration of all that heard him, But witneses examined, and ebery prooffe made pzeugnant, the Fox was condemned & judgement was giben, that he should be hanged till his bodie were dead. And to which sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery nor no words now pre-bailed. This done, Grimbart his Nephew, and others others nere him in blood, (which could not indure to see him die) took their leave of the King & departed from the Court. When the King noted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence, all sad and weeping being nere of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himselfe, It behoveth us to take good and mature counsaile, though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many friends, and moze vertues. As the King was thus thinking the Cat said to the Beare: Sir Bruine and you Sir Isegrim, Why are you slow in this Execution? the Even is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself of this danger, his subtiltie is so great, that not all the Art in the world shall eber againe intangle him: If you meane to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallowses can be made, it will be darke night. At these words Isegrim remembryng himselfe, said, There is a paire of Gallowses nere at hand - (and with that fetch a deepe sigh) which the Cat notin z, said: Are you afraid Sir Isegrim, or is this execution against your minde? you may remember that it was onelis his wothe, that both your brethren were hang'd: and sure had you Judgement, you would thanke him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegrim half angrie answered, Our anger puts out the eye of your reason, yet had we a halter that would fit his necke.

of Reynard the Fox.

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necke, we woud soone dispatch him, Reynard that had beene
sient a great while said : I beseech you shorten my paine ; Sir



Tibert hath a Corde strong enough, in which himselfe was
hang'd at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests geni-
tors, besides he can climbe well and swift : O let him be mine

If 3.

Execu.

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By the violence of the Beare, the wolfe and the Cat, in persuing the Fox to death, and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours, then their revenges so blind is wrath, and deformed it makes men that are cloathed therewith.

The Foxes patience and mild temper, shewes, that when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their virtues, especially meeknesse.

Executioner, for it neither becometh Issegim nor Bruine thus to doe to their Nephew : I am sorry I live to see it. But since you are set to be my hangmen, plaie your parts and delay not: goe before Bruine, and lead my waie; follow Issegim, and beware I escape not: you saie well said Bruine, and it is the best counsaile I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Issegim, and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his bodie : when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayd, yet said : O why doe you put your selves (my best kinsman) to this pain, to doe me hurt? beleve it I could well aske you forgiveness, though my paines be pleasant unto you, yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented: But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice : as for Bruine and Tybert, I leave my revenge to justice, and wish you the reward of Traitors, if you doe not to me the worst of your powers : I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror : I saw my Father die, and how quicklie he banished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. Then said Issegim, let us goe, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying : So he on one side & Bruine on the other, led the poore Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobilitie, took their place to see the Fox die. When Reynard full of sorrow, and buslie bethinking himself, how he might escape that danger, and how to intyal and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his partie, saying to himselfe, Though the King & manie others be offended with me as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it, nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend : During this meditation the Wolfe said : Sir Bruine, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the daie is come we wish for; Tibert, ascend quicklie and bring the rope to the Gallows making a running noose, for this daie you shall have your will

will of your enemy : and good Sir Bruine take heed he escape not, whilst I my selfe raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared the Fox said, Now may my heart be heaue, for Death stands now in all his horror before me, and I cannot escape ; my dread Lord the King, and you my Soberaigne Lady the Quene, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Wone ; that I may unlock my heart before you, and cleare my soule of her burthens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for mee : which done, death will be easie, and the assistance of your prayers will raise my soule to heauen.

for that soonest doth insinuate with mens natures, and drawes forth pity, whereas roughness euer increaseth mischief.

CHAP. 12.

Hoh Reynard made his confession before the King.

EVERY creature now tooke compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it : which was done, And then the Fox thus spake : Helpe me, Heauen : for I see no man here to whom I have not offended : yet was this eill no naturall inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted as vertuous as any breathing : this know, I have plaid with the Lambs all the daie long, and took delight in their pretty bleating, yet at last in my plaie I bit one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet unto me, that I approb'd the Flesh, and both were so sweet, that since I could neber forbear it ; This liquozish humour dreyed me into the Woods amongst the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, which slaughter made me so hardie, that then I fell to murder Hens, Geese and other Pullaine. And thus my crimes increased by custome, and surp so possesse me, that all was fish which came to my net ; After this in (the Winter season) I met with Isegrim whereas he laie hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Wedegree before so plaine, that from that date forth we became fellows and companions : which knot of friendship I may euer curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters :

he

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hee stole the great things, & the small; he murdered Nobles, &
the meanes Subjects : and in all our actions his share still



was eber the greatest : when he got a Mamme, a Calfe, or
whether, his fury would hardlie afford me the hoznes to pick
on : nay when he had an Wyfe, or a Coto, after himselfe, his
wyfe,

of Reynard the Fox.

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wife and his seven children were serbed, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that I wanted (for it is well known I have more plate, Jewels and coine, then twenty Carts are able to carry) but onely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof, and he said Reynard, where is that treasure you speak of? The Fox answered, My Lord, I shall willingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolne, and had it not been stolne in that manner which it was, it had cost your Highnesse your life (which heauen I beseech keepe euer in their protection.) When the Quene heard that dangerous speech, she started, and said, What dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I do command you upon your soules health, to unfold these doubtfull speeches, and to keepe nothing concealed which concerns the life of my deead Lord. The Fox with a sorrowfull and sad countenance replied to the Quene, O my deead Soberaigne Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might die at this present? but gracious Madame, your conjuration and the health of mine own soul to prevaileth with me; that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. 'Tis true, the King should have been pittiously murdred by his own people, and I must confesse by those of my dearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine own soul and my fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discovery, said: Is this true Reynard which you protest? The Fox answered, Alas, my deead Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poore glasse to runne: Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? what can the whole world availe me, when my soule perisheth? and at that he trembled, and lookt so pittifully, that the Quene had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his own Royall person, to take some pittie of the Fox, and to command all his subjects to hold their peace, and keepe silence till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

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By the Foxes confession and accusation of his enemies is exprest a three-fold subtilty in the Fox. First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed his sorrow for the same, and the little hope he had of life, which piercing into the weak nature of the Queene being a woman, and subject to pitty, begot much compassion towards him.

2. The accusing of those whom he was knowne most assuredly to love, was a meanes to draw belife to that hee spake.

3. The ingaging the life of the King, and making the reason so foule was a way to asfright the

all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this manner : Since it is the pleasure of my soveraigne Lord the King, and that his royall life lieth in the ballance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capitall and foule treason, and in the relation not speare any guiltie person for any respect whatsoever, whether it be blood, greatnesse, or authoritie : Knowe then, my dread soveraigne Lord the King, that my father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ermericks treasure, being a masse infinite and innumerable : of which being possesse, he grew so proud and haughty : that he held in scoone all the Beasts of the Wilderness, which before had been his kinsmen and companions ; at last he caused Tybert the Cat to goe into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruine the Beare, and to tender to him his homage and fealtie, saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flaunders, where he would shew him meanes how to set the Crowne upon his head. Bruine was glad of this Embassage (for he was exceeding ambitious, and had long thirsted for soveraigntie) and thereupon came into Flaunders where my Father received him noblie. Then presently hee sent for the wise Grimbart my Nephew, and for Isgrim the Wolfe, and for Tybert the Cat : then these three comming betwene Gaunt and the billage called Elfe, they held a solemne Counsaile for the space of a whole night : in which by the assistance of the Devill, and the strong confidence of my fathers riches it was there concluded, that your Majestie should be forthwith murdered : which to effect, they tooke a solemne oath in this manner : The Beare, my father Grimbart and the Cat, laying their hands on Isgrims Crowne, sware first to make Bruine their King, & to place him in the chaire of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperiall Diadem on his head : and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance, they should be gain-said, that then my father with his treasure should hire those which should utterlie chase and root them out of the Forrest. Now after this determination held and finished, it happened that my Nephew Grimbart being one a time high stone with wine, he discovered this damnable plot to damie Slope-cade.

of Reynard the Fox.

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cade his wife, commanded her upon her life to keep secret the same : but she forgetfull of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my wife, as they went a Pilgrimage ober an Heath, with like conjuration of secreesse : But she (woman-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledge of all that had passed, yet so as by all means I must keep it secret too, for she had sworn by the three Kings of Cul-len neber to disclose it ; and withall, she gave me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true to which she had spoken : in so much, that the very affright thereof made my haire stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, cold and heaue in my bosome, which made me call to mind the storie of the Frogs, who being free and without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and govern ober them, and he presently sent them a Snake, which eat and deuoured them up : so that by his tyrannie they became the most miserable of all creatures : then they complained againe to Jupiter for redresse, but it was then too late: for they which could not be content with their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thraldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your Majestie, although you little respect my grieving : I know that ambition of the Beare, and his tyrannie is so infinite great, that should the government come into his hands (as heauen forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed : Besides, I know your Majestie of so royall and Princely birth, so mightie, so gracious, and so mercifull, that it had beene a damnable exchange to have seene a ravenous Beare sit in the throne of the royall Lyon, for there is in the Beare and in his generation more prodigall loosenesse and inconstancie, then in any Beast whatsoever. But to procede, from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might undoe my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base Traitor and a slave into the throne Emperiall : for I well perceived as long as he held the Treasure, there was a possibility of deposing your Majestie, and this troubled my thought exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where

Queene, and others of her tenderneesse of heart, and to bring his enemies into disgrace and scandall, wherein the Fox sheweth, that he which will slander, or will have any untruth believed : must first strengthen his opinion with pitty, then get belief, and lastly exercise his mischief, against all which a wise man will shut his ears as the Lion did : If he be not over-tempted by those he loves as the Lion was by the Queene, and his own covetousnesse in desiring that infinite treasure, then which there is nothing draws a man sooner to the belief of un-

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truth, and of
falshood : for
what a man
desires, that
his owne de-
sire will make
him credit, and
where such
credit is given
there com-
monly the
wicked escape
from punish-
ment, as here
it fell out with
the Fox.

my Fathers Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and
attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in



the open fields : nay, in all places wheresoeber my father laid
his eyes, there was I eber watching and attending. Now it
pained on a time as I was laid downe flat on the ground, I
saw

of Reynard the Fox.

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saw my father come running out of a hole, and as soone as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him: then seeing the coast cleare, hee stopped the hole with sand, and made it so eben, smooth and plaine, that no curious eye could discern a difference twixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his taile he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed that no man might perceibe it: and indeed that and many other subtilties, I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, aboate he went towards the billage about his private affaires: then went I presentlie towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtiltie, I quicklie found it out, then entered I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantitie of treasure, which cannot bee expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to helpe me, and we ceast not day nor night with infinite great toyle and labour, to carrie and conbey away this treasure to another place, much moze convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus imployed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors, about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Isgrim the Wolfe should travaile over all the Kingdome, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their soveraigne, and defend his title, a full yeares paie before hand. And in this journie my father accompanied him, carrying letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was robd of the wealth which should supplie his treason: When this negotiation was finished betweene Elve and Soame, and a world of valiant souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his consorts, to whom they declared the many perills they had escaped in the Dukedome of Saxony where they were pursued by Huntmen and Hounds, so as they hardlie escaped with life: after this relation they shewed Bruine their muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isgrims lineage about twelbe hundred swayne to the action, besides the Beares of one kindred,

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the Foxes, the Cats, and the Daddens, all which would be in readinesse upon an hours warning. All this I found out (I praise Heaben) by perfect intelligence : Now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his Cave of treasure : but when he found it open, spoil'd and ransackt, it is not in me to expresse the infinite agony and sorow he fell into, that grief converting to madnesse, and madnesse to desperation : suddainly he went to the next tree and hang'd himselfe.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Bruine defeated, for which I now suffer : from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus : These foule traytors Bruine and Isgrim, being of the Kings privatest Counsell, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread upon me poore Reynard and worke my disgrace : notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my naturall Father. O my dread Lord, what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to lose himselfe to save you ? The King and Quene having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynards, took him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my hairens ? shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possesst of the good I enjoy ? No, that's a madnesse, I will never die guilty of. Then said the Quen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth sweare Faith and true Allegiance to his Majestie. The Fox answered : Dearest Adam, if the King out of his Royall nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King staying the Quen, said : Adam, will you believe the Fox ? know you not that it is his naturall quality to lie, steal and deceive ? The Quen answered, My dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for howsoever in his prosperity he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed : why he spareth not to accuse his own Father, nay Grimbart his dearest Nephew and kinsman, had he dissembled, he might have

of Reynard the Fox.

have laid his imputations on other Beasts, and not on those he loveth most truly. Well Adam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, That if ever againe he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not onely himself, but his whole generation I will utterly rote out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, My dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruthes in this great presence. Then the King taking a straw from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he or his Father had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetness of life required it: yet he fell downe before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the Fox tooke up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to him: My dread Lord, I beseech your Majestie to receive this pledge as a surrender unto your Majestie, of all the Treasure that the great King Ermerick was master of, with which I freely infeoffe you, out of my mere voluntary and free motion. At these words the King received the Straw, and smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to thinke of the abuse: from that day forward no mans counsell prebaild with the King as the Foxes. Which the Fox seeing; said to the King: My gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side of Flanders, there standeth a Wood called Hustreloe, nere which runneth a River named Credenpit, this is a Wilderness so vast and unpassable, that hardly in all the year there commeth either man or woman in the same. In it I have hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majestie and the Quene to go, for I know none bet your selves whom I dare trust in so great designe; and when your Highnesse comes thither, you shall find two Birch trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure,

which

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which consisteth of Coine, rich Jewels, and the wealthy Crowne which King Ermerick wore. With which Crowne Bruine the Bear should have been Crowned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possesse, then remember the love of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your selfe help me to digge for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Crekenpit I never heard of, therefore I fear you dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said: Is your Majestie so doubtfull of my faith? nay then I will appoche my words by publique testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare, from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should aske him: The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to die for the same. Then the Fox said: Know you not where Crekenpit standeth? Yes said the Hare, I have known it any time this dozen years, it standeth in a wood called Hustenloe, upon a hault and wide wilderness, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Frier made false Coine, with which he supported himself and his fellows. Yet that was before I and King the Hound became companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoke sufficiently: go to your place againe: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, My soveraign Lord the King, what say you now to my relation, am I worthy your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my Jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evill: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to this pit where the Treasure lieth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would faine go with you: If it were so that I might go without your dishonour, which I cannot do; For you shall understand

stand

stand, (though it be my disgrace) that when Isegrim the
 Wolfe in the devils name, would needs grow religious and
 turne a Monk: that then the permission of meate which was
 for six Monks, was too little for him alone. Whereupon he
 complained so pitifully unto me, that I commiserating his
 case (being my kinsman) gave him counsaile to runne away,
 which he did: Whereupon I stand accursed, and excommuni-
 cated under the Popes sentence: and am determined to mor-
 row as soone as the Sunne riseth, to take my waie towards
 Rome to bee absolved, and from Rome I intend to crosse the
 Seas to the Holy-land, and will never returne againe to my
 native Countre, till I have done so much good, and satisfied
 for my sinnes, that I may with honour and reputation attend
 on your Highness person. The King hearing this, said: Since
 you stand accursed in the censures of the Church, I may not
 have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Ky-
 ward the Mare, and some other with me to Crekenpit: and on-
 ly command you Reynard, as you respect my labour, to cleare
 your selfe of his bel-needs curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is
 the onely reason of my going to Rome, neither will I rest
 night nor day, till I have gotten a full absolution: the course
 you take is good (said the King) goe on and prosper in your in-
 tent and purpose.

CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the
 Kings Commandement.

As soone as this conference was ended, the royall King
 mounted upon an high Throne made in manner of a
 scaffold, made of faire squared Stone, and then commanded
 a generall silence amongst all his Subjects, and that everie
 one should take his place according to his Birth, or dignity in
 Office, onelie the Fox was placed between the King and the
 Queene. Then said the King: Heare all you Noblemen,
 Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferiour qualitie:
 This Reynard one of the chiefe and supreme Officers of my
 household,

The pleasant History

household, whose offences had brought him to the least reckoning his life, of as being in the hands of the Law and Justice:



hath this daie in requitall of these Injuries, done that Noble
and worthy service to the State, that both my selfe and my
Queene, stand bound to render him our best grace and fauour.
There.

of Reynard the Fox.

55

Therefore knowe, that for diuers things best known unto our selues, we haue freely giuen pardon to all his offences, and restozed back to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I command all of you, upon the paine and hazard of your dearest liues, that you faile not from this day forwarde to doe all reuerence and honour not onelie to Reynard himself, but also to his wife and Childzen: whether soeuer or wheretogether you shall meet them, whether by night or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine ears with any more complaints of him: for his wickednesse he hath cast behind him, and will no more be guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to morrow berie early he taketh his journey towards Rome, where from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence for all his offences, and then on Pilgramage to the Holy land. This speech when Tisellin the Raben heard, he flew to Bruine, Isegrim and Tibert, and said: Wretched creatures how are your fortunes changed? or how can you endure to hear these tidings? who Reynard is now a Courtier, a Counsellour, nay the prime Favourite: his offences are forgiven, and you are all betrayed, and sold unto bondage. Isegrim answered, It is impossible Tiselli, nor can such a thing be suffered: do not deceive your selues (said the Raben) for it is as true as that now I speak it. When went the Wolfe and the Bear to the King: but the Cat staied and was so fore-efrighted with the netes, that to purchase the Foxes friendship againe, she would not onely haue forgiven the evils received, but willingly haue run into a second hazard. But now Isegrim with great Griefe and pride tracing oer the Fields, came before the King and Quene: and with most bitter and cruell words, embied against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely mowed with displeasure, caused the Wolfe and the Bear to be presently arrested upon high Treason: which suddenly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from the place where they were couched. Now when the Fox

The Morall.

By this honour done to the Fox, you may see, that when policy and wisdom get the upper hand of their enemies, it neuer resteth till it make known to the world the greatnesse of their Conquest, both to expresse their ambition, as also to extenuate their crimes, and keep their foes in awe with the goodly shewes of new grace and favour. By the complaint of the Raven, is shewed the jealousy and fear of the weaker sort and how in their troubles they flie to the Heads of faction, and stirre them (with their own safeties) to prevent evils.

The pleasant History

By the Wolfe
and the Beares
conmiuent,
is shewed, that
when men
complaine in
unseasonable
times, they
ever runne
themselves in-
to most appa-
rant and dan-
gerous mis-
chiefes.

had thus inthralled and intangled them, he so laboured with
the Duke, that he got leave to have so much of the Beares
skinn, as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:



which granted: he wanted nothing but a strong paire of
shoes to defend his feet from the Stones in his travaile:
where-

of Reynard the Fox.

57

Whereupon he said to the Queen, Madam, I am your Pilgrim, and if it would please your Majestie but to take it into your consideration; you shall find that Sir Isegrim hath a paire of excellent long lasting ones, which would you boughsafe to bestow upon me, I should pray for your Majesties soule in all my travaile, above any charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt dame Arsewind, hath other two Shoes, which would your Majestie bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldome abroad. The Queen replied, Reynard, I cannot perceive how you can want such shoes, for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the stony mountaines and the gravelly waies, and therefore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nearly) from each of them a paire of Shoes to accomplish and finish your journey.

CHAP. 14.

How Isegrim and his wife Arsewind had their shoes pluckt off, for Reynard to were to Rome.

After the Fox had made this petition, Isegrim was taken, and his Shoes pulled off in most cruell and violent manner, so that all the veines and sinewes lay naked, nor durst the poore massacred Wolfe either complaine or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then dame Arsewinde his wife was used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her husband was on his fore-feet: which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornfull manner: Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you that takes all this paines for my sake? questionlesse you shall be a sharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your Shoes. Then Arsewind (though speech were troublesome to her) said, Woe it Sir Reynard, you have your will accomplisht, yet heaven (I hope) will requite the misdoer. This she said, but her husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there

The pleasant History

The Morall.

In the spoyling the Beare of her skinne, and the Wolfe of his shooes, is shewed, both the malice of a revengefull enemy, that never thinks his Foe weakned enough, till he be utterly ruined, as also the indiscretion of a never angry nature that cannot stay to give his wrogs advantage, but utters his spieene before he can either get belife or remedy.

By the ceremonies done to the Fox, & the curiosity of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifferency, (where authority hath power to command) for any man to stand upon nice and puritanical termes with his superiors, doth not onely breed

also he had not escap't some extream punishment. The next morning very early, Reynard causing his shooes to be well oyled, put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, as they were to the Wolbes, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My dread Lord and Lady, your poore subject boweth before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to be chesefull to deliver me my male and my staffe blest, according to the custome due unto Pilgrims.

At his said, the King sent for Bellin the Kanne, and commanded him to say solemn Masse before the Fox, and to deliver him his staffe and his male: but the Kanne refused saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said, what of that, have not our Doctores told us, that if a man commit all the sinnes in the world, yet if he repent himself, he shalben, do penance, and walke as the Priest shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him: and hath not Reynard done all this? then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loth to meddle herein, yet if your Majestie will bear me harmlesse against the Bishop of Prendelore (my ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon Looswind, and Rapiamus his Officall, I will effect your commandement. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scozne to be beholding unto you: but when the Kanne saw the King offended, he shoke for fear, and ranne presently to the Altar, and sung Masse, and used many ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. After when Bellin the Kanne had finished his Orisons, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male: which was made of the Beares skinne, and put into his right foot a Palmers staffe: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart and fained to weep (though sorrow and he were never farther asunder) onely his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolfe were: yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart (for knowing his own knaverie, he was very desirous to be gone)

of Reynard the Fox.

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gone.) The King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part thus suddenlie: then said the Fox, There is no remedie my Lord, noz ought I be slow in so debout an action. When the King toke leaue, and commanded all that were about him (but the Beare and the Wolfe) to attend Reynard some part of his iourne. O hee that had seene how gallant and per'orable Reynard was, and how well his staffe and his male became him: as also how fit his Shooes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: yet the Fox carried himselfe outwardlie very demurely, howe inwardlie hee smiled at the abuses hee had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom hee had most palpably treuged with false lies, to be aiding to all his haine desires, did accompanie him also as if he had been his companion. But the Fox being now onward his waie, hee said to the King, I beseech your Majestie trouble your selfe no further, but in respect of your ease, and the danger might happen to your royall person, for you have arrested two capitall Traitors, who if in your absence they should get at liberrie, the danger were infinite, which might insue thereon. And this said, hee stood upon his hinder feete, and entreated the beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon, that they would praise for him: which done, hee departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heable countenance: Then turning to Kyward the Ware, and Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling countenance: my best friends, shall wee part thus soon? I knowe your lobes will not leaue me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your conuersations are agreeable to my nature: for you are mild, loving and courteous, religious, and full of wise counsaile, even such as my selfe was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few greene leaves, or a little grasse, you are well content, as with all the bread and flesh in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like flattering words he inticed these two, that they were content to goe along with him.

reprehension
but punish-
ment.

By the Foxes
Hypocrisie, is
seene the dis-
simulation of
worldly men,
and how to ef-
fect their mis-
chiefe to the
full height,
they ever put
on a most false
cloake of Re-
ligion.

By the gene-
rall atten-
dance of all
the Beasts on
the Fox, is
shewed, the
flattery and
basenesse of
many people
that never
looke how
good a man is,
but how
great, and that
favour and
countenance,
is ever enough
to command
at their servi-
ces.

CHAP.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 15.

How *Kyward* the Haire was slaine by *Reynard* the Fox, and
sent by the Ram to the King.

Thus marched these three together, and when *Reynard* was come to the gates of his owne house, he said to *Bellin* cousin, I will intreate you to staie here without a little, whilst I and *Kyward* goe in, for I would haue him a witnesse to some priuate passages betwixt me and my wife. *Bellin* was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into *Malepardus*, where they found dame *Ermelin* lying on the ground with her younglings about her, who had sorrowed exceedingly for the loss and danger of her husband : but when she saw his returne, her ioy was ten times doubled : But beholding his male, his staffe and his shoes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Deare husband, how haue you fared : to whom he delibered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger as release, and that now he was to goe a pilgrimage, having left *Bridhe* and *Legrim* two pledges for him till his returne : as for *Kyward* he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to doe with him what they pleased, affirming, that *Kyward* was the first that had complained of him, for which questionlesse hee bowed to be sharplie reuenged. When *Kyward* heard these words, hee was much apaled, and would faine haue fled awayne, but hee could not : for the Fox had got betwixt him and the Gate : who presently seized the Hare by the neck : at which the Hare cried unto *Bellin* for helpe, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torne out his throat : which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinkeing the blood to the Kings health : but *Ermelin* growing suspitious, said, I feare, *Reynard*, you mock me : as you loke me, tell me how you sped at the Court. When he told her how extreamelie he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure that was not, in so much, that he knew when it should come to be reuealed,

of Reynard the Fox.

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the King would seeke all the meanes he could to destroy him. And therefore w^{is}e said he, there is no remeioe but we must Reale from hence, into some other Forrest where we may

The Morall.

By the killing of the Hare, is shewed that whereas men out of the lightnesse and easinesse of their beliefe, do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries or newreconciled Friends, that evermore some inevitable mischief deth still follow such folly and improvidence.

Also how easily a malicious man can finde cause of quarrell with such as are too weak for them or as eye-fores stand between them and the end of their purposes, or are able to reveale and hinder their projects.

By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the Letters



like in better safety, an in a place more fruitfull, where we shall have all the delicate meates that can be wist for, cleere

A

springe

The pleasant History

which he saw
not, is discove-
red, that ever
such vain glo-
rious pick pur-
ses of other
qualities, doe
ever carry
their owne
shames and
disreputations,
and when
they looke for
most honour
or renowne,
they reape no-
thing but mi-
sery, scorne
and disgraces.

springe, fresh ribers, coole shades, and wholesome ayre : here
I know is no abiding : and now I have gotten my thumbe
out of the Kings mouth. I will no more come within the dan-
ger of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no fancy to
go from hence, to a place where I am utterly unacquainted :
here we possess all that we desire, and you are a Lord over
all that liues about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard to
change a certaine good for a boyed contentment : besides, we
are here safe enough. and should the King besiege us neuer
so straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes,
that hee can neither cut from us reliefe or libertie. What
reason have we then to flee beyond Seas : but you have swozne
it, that's my verition. Nay Dame (said the Fox) griebe
not at that : the more forgozne, the lesse forgozne : Besides
I have heard some saie, that a for't Dath is no Dath, nor do
I make account that this Pilgrimage will abate mee a rush.
And therefore I am resolued, and will not start from hence,
but follow thy counsaile : If the King doe hunt after mee, I
will guard my selfe as well as I am able, and against his
power applie my policie : so that being forced to open my
sacke, let him not blame mee if hee catch hurte by his owne
furie.

All this while stood Bellin the Kamme at the Gate, and
grew exceeding angrie both against the Fox and the Hare, that
they made him waite so long : and therefore called out a-
loude, for Reynard to come awoies : Which when Reynard
heard, hee went forth and said softly to the Kam. Good Bellin-
be not offended : for Kyward is in earnest conference with his
dearest Aunt, and entreated me to saie unto you, that if you
would please to walke before, hee would speedilie overtake
you, for he is light of foote, and speedier then you : nor will his
Aunt part with him thus suddenlie, for she and her Children
are much perplext at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me
thought I heard Kyward cry for helpe. How, cry for helpe?
can you imagine he shall receiue hurt in my house : farre bee
such a thought from you : but I will tell you the reason : As
sone as we were e me into my house, and that Ermelin my

Wife

of Reynard the Fox.

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Wife understood of my Pilgrimage, presently she fell doونه in a swoone: which when Kyward saw, hee cryed aloud, O Bellin come helpe my Aunt, she dyes, she dyes: Then said the Kam, In sadnesse I mistook the crie, and thought the Hare had bene in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the For, but befoze he should have any injurie in my house. I would leaue to respect either Wife or Childzen. But letting this discourse passe, you remember Bellin, that yester day the King and his Countaile commanded me, that befoze I departed from the Land, I should send unto him two Letters, which I have made readie, and will intreate you my dearest Cousin to beare them to his Majestie. The Kam answered, I would willingly doe you the service, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprohided of any thing to carrie them in. The For said, that is prohided for you alreadie, for you shall have my male which you may conveniently hang about your necke: I know they will be thankfully receibed of his Majestie, for they containe matter of great importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the For returned into his house, and tooke the male, and put therein the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Kam, and gave him a great charge not to looke therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings labour: and that hee might further indeare himselfe with his Majestie, hee had the Kam take upon him the inditing of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the King, that questionlesse he will poyze upon you manie labours.

The Kamme was exceeding glad of this advice, and thanked the For, saying: That the labours hee did him should not be unrequited; and I know it will be much to mine honour when the King shall thinke I am able to indite with so great perfection: for I know there be many in these daies as ignorant as my selfe, that are risen to high promotion, onely by taking upon them the worth of other mens Labours: And therefore why may not I runne the same course also? Per I praye you Reynard further advise me: Is it mete that I take Kyward the Hare along with me? O by no meenes (said the

The pleasant History

For let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not yet be revealed. This said, Bellin took leave of the Fox and went toward the Court, in which Journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noone: where he found the King, in his Palace sitting amongst the Nobility.



of Reynard the Fox.

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The King wondred when he saw the Kanne come in with the male which was made of the Bears skinne, and said: Whence comest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that male about you? Bellin answered: My dread Lord, I attend the noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majestie of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly Indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highnesse both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages: that he might read them publikely, so he and Tibert the Cat tooke the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the Head of Kyward the Hare: at which being amazed they said: Woe and alas, what Letters call you these? Believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of poore murdered Kyward. Which the King seeing (he said) Alas, how unfortunate was I to believe the trayterous Fox? And with that being opprest with anger, griefe and shame: he held downe his head for a good space, and so did the Quen also: but in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadfull noise, that all the beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear it. Then spake Sir Firapell the Uhard, who was the Kings nearest kinsman, and said: Why is your Majestie thus bered in heart? this sorow might serve for the Quenes Funerall, I doe beseech you aswage your anguish: are not you King and master of this Country, and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is a mischief beyond endurance, I am betrayed by a base villaine, and a traytor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel, I mean the stout Bruine, and halient Hegrin, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour, yet in my self I found an unwillingnesse thereto, onely my Quenes pittie working upon the ea-

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finesse of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will
 ebermore grieve me. Why (said the Libard) what of all this?
 you are aboue your injuries, and with one smile can salve the
 greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have power
 to recompence, and what reputation is it that reward will not
 salade? as for the Bear which lost his skinne, the Wolfe
 and his wife Dame Arsewind, that lost their Shooes, you may
 in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himself a party in this
 foule murder) bestow him and his substance on the parties
 grieved: as for Reynard, we will go and besiege his Castle:
 and having arrested his person, hang him up by the late of
 Armes without further triall.

CHAP. 16.

Now Bellin the Ramme, and his linage, were given to the
 Beare and the Wolfe.

TO this motion of the Libard the King consented, so that
 Firapell forthwith went to the prison, where the Beare
 and

of Reynard the Fox.

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and the Wolfe were, and said : my Lords, I bring a free
and generall pardon from the King, with his lobe, and a re-
cognition of your injuries : which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princely hountie, he is pleased to bestow
upon you both Bellin the Ram and his whole generatio n, with
what.

The pleasant History

whatsoever they possesse, and is now confiscate to his Majesty, to hold from henceforth to you and yours till doomes day: with full commission to slay, kill, and debar them wheresoever you finde them. Be it in Woods, Fields, or Mountaines. And also the King granted unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you finde him or any of his linage or generation: and of this great priviledge you shall receive letters Patents at your pleasure, with onely a reservation of your fealty and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your honours. Thus was the peace made betwene the King and these nobles by the Wybard, and Bellin the Kammie was forthwith slaine by them; and all these Priviledges doth the Wolfe hold to this houre, nor could ever any reconciliation be made betwene them and the Kammes kindred. When this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof, proclaimed a feast to be held for twelbe daies after, which was done with all solemnitie.

To this feast came all manner of wilde Beasts, for it was universally knowne through the whole Kingdome, nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined, as musick, dancing, masking, and all Princely recreations: as for severall meates, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a store-house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered Fowle, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast had thus continued in all pompe the space of eight daies: about high noon came Laprell the Coney before the King and Quene, as they sat at dinner, and with a heabie and lamentable voice, said: My gracious and great Lord, have pittie upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murder, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me: as I passed by the Castle of Maleparchus, where standing without his gates, attired like a Pilgrime, I supposing to passe peaceably by him towards my nest: he cross my way, saying his Words so deboutly, that I saluted

of Reynard the Fox.

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saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right foot, and gabe me such a blow one the neck between the



head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had ben stricken from my bodie: but yet so much memorie was left me that I leapt from his clawes, though most grievously hurt and wounded

The Morall.

By the giving of Bellin unto his enemies, is shewed that when simple men give themselves to pride & vain-g'ory, they are overtaken by their enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction.

By the complaint of the Cony, is shewed that when the weak will believe the faire shews of the strong and cruell, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they doe by some hidden providence, yet it is not without ever some maine either to their bodies or reputations. The complaint of the Rooke, shewes that when the evill man sleepe-h or seemeth to have least power or in-

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tent of wicked-
nesse, that
then his
thoughts are
most busied &
laborious to
destroy the in-
nocent, and the
mischiefe is
more violent,
then when he
lyeth most ap-
parant and
publisheth
himselfe an o-
pen enemy,
wherefore the
simple and in-
nocent ought
at such times
to be most
fearefull, and
to keepe far-
thest out of his
danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extreamely, because I esca-
ped onely of one of my cares he utterlie deperied me, which I
beseech your Majestie in your royall nature to pittie, and that
this bloudie murdherer may not lye thus to afflict your poore
Subjects. Now whilst the Coney was thus speaking to the
King, there came flying into the Court Corbint the Woke,
who comming before the King, said: Great King, I beseech
you houghsafe to heare me, and pittie the complaint I shall ut-
ter: so it is, that I went this morning with Sharbeake my
wife to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there was found
Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcase, his
eyes staring, his tongueolling out of his mouth, like a deade
Hound, so that we wondering at his strange plight, began to
feele and touch his bodie, but found no life therein at all: then
went my wife (poore carefull soule) and laid her head to his
mouth, to see if he dyed any breath: which she bid no sooner
done, but the foule murderher awaiting his time, snatcht her
head into his mouth, and bite it quite off. At that I threked
out and cried: What is me, what misfortunes are these? but
presently the murderher start up, and reacht at me with such a
bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish I was
faine to flie up to a tree, wherere I saw him devour up my wife
in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me
in the repeating.

This massacre finished, the murderher departed, and I
went to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife,
which here I humbly present before your Majestie, beseeching
you to doe me justice, and in such manner to rebenge mine in-
jurie, that the world may speak fame of your great excellence,
for thus to suffer your Lawes, Protections, and safe Conducts
to be violatod and broken, will be such disreputatton and scan-
dall to your Crowne and Dignitie, that your very neighbours
and Colleagues will note and point at your remissenesse:
besides the sufferance of the evill will make you guiltie of the
trespasses which arise from such sufferance: But to your
great considerations I leave it: since I know your Majesties
own goodnesse will make you carefull of your honour & royaltie.

CHAP.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsell for revenge, and how *Reynard* was forewarned by *Grimbard* the Brock.

The rovall King was much moved with anger, when he heard these Complaints both of the Coney and the Kooke, so that his eyes darting out fire, amongst the beames of *Wesleslie*, his countenance was dreadfull and cruell to looke on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he said: By my Crowne and the truth I evermore reberence and owe unto the Queen my Wiffe, I will so rebenge these outrages committed against my Crowne and Dignitie, that goodnes shall adoe me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falshood and flatterie shall no more get belief in me.

As this his journey to Rome and to the Holy-land? are these the fruits of his male, his staffe, and other ornaments becoming a devout Pilgrim: Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my helief, but the perswasion of my Queen, nor am I the first that hath ben deceived by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their inticements. And thus said: he commanded all that were about him, both Noble, worthy and eberie discret spirit to assist him with their Counsell, and to laie him down such sure ground for his rebenge, that his honour and Royaltie might be a new rebided, and ebery offender made to know and feele the heabie price for their most unjust actions.

Hegrim the Wolfe and *Bruine* the Beare, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but now to gaine their full rebenge against *Reynard*: yet still they kept silence and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moved with their dumbnesse: and noting that none durst frakle deliber their opinions: He began to bend his forehead: but the *Duxne* after solemn reberence said to the King: Mon Sire, pour Dieu croyez mie toutes

The pleasant History



ehoses qu'en vous dira, & ne jurez point legerement Sir, it
 it not the part of any excellent widsome to belibe or pretest
 in any thing till the matter be made most apparant and preg-
 nant to his knowledge: neither should both his ears, be in-
 gaged to any complaint, but one eber reserved to enter-
 taine the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser
 erreth

of Reynard the Fox.

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excuseth the accused in injuries. And therefore Audire alteram partem, to hear the other party, is the act of perfect Justice: For my own part howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my persuasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellencie not to proceed against him, but by the true form of your Lawes: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your severity can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firapell the Libard to second her intreatie said: My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can strate from her judgement: Therefore let him take the due triall of your Lawes, and being found guiltie of the trespasses wherewith he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your feast be ended, to clear himself, or submit to your mercy: then may your Highnesse proceed against him as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

To this speech Isegrim the Wolfe replied, Sir Firapell, for my own part, I thinke not any in this assemblie will dissent from your counsell, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintaine, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I have that lodged in my bosome, which shall approue he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, onelie touching the treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty to lie at Creckenpit in Husterloe, there neuer came a falsere information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself libertie to rob and spoile all that passe by his house as now he doth: but notwithstanding I hold it meet that all things be done as shall seeme good to his Majesty, or you Sir Firapell: Yet this beliebe, that if he had moant to have appeared, he had been here long since, for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegience, or respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves

The Morall.

The anger of the Lyon at the Foxes trespasses, shewes the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good subjects are injured. And the persuasion of the Queen and the Libard, shewes the true repentance which every Prince should use, when he administred Justice.

The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolfe, shewes the cunning malice of a subtle foe, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceale the violence of his malice: that so he may gaine a more quiet attention, and then mixing his calme words with

The pleasant History

bitter promises and doubtfull injuries, doth the uttermost he can to pay for the reputation of him he hateth. The Brookes going to the Fox, sheweth the office of a true friend, which both giveth warning and advise to them they love, when they see them runne into evill courses. The Foxes carelesse shews the true nature of a desperate man, that when hee hath plunged himselfe into the depth of evill, hath nothing but an audacious countenance, and an impudent shew to make him seem innocent yet evermore his heart is nipt with the stinging of his conscience as oft as he alone which is the

readie for the warre : and at the end of six daies appeare he for me with their Bowes, Cunnies, Mumbards, Jakes, and Halbarde : some on horse-backe, some on foot, for I will bessege Mallepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the earth for ever : this if any dislike, let him turne his back, that I may know him for mine enemy. And they all cried with one voice, we are readie to attend your Majestie. When Grimbard the Brocke heard this determination he grew exceeding sorry (though this sorrow was desperate) and stealing from the rest of the companie, hee ranne with all speed possible to Mallepardus, neither sparing bush nor hyer, pale nor taile : and as he went he said to himselfe. Alas my deere Uncle Reynard, into what hazards art thou drawn, having but one slept betwixt thee and thy death, or at the best thine everlasting banishment ? Well may I grieve for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art wise and politicke, and a friend to thy friends when they stand in neede of thy counsell, for with thy sweere language thou canst inchant all creatures, but all is now bootlesse. With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard unto Mallepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their nest to try how they could leane to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he staide, and said, Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the onelie hee I esteeme above all my kindred : Surely you have runne exceeding fast, for you sweate wonderfully : what newes man, how runnes the squares at the Court ? I said Grimbard exceeding ill with you, for you have forfeited both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in armes against you with horse-men, footemen, and souldiers invulnerable : besides, Ilgrim and Bruine are now in more favour with his Majestie, then I am with you, therefore it is high time you have great care of your selfe, for their envy hath toucht you to the quick, they have informed against you, that you are a thiefe and a murdurer : and to second their informations, Laprell the Coney, and Corbant the Kooke have made hainous com-

of Reynard the Fox.

complaints against you, so that but your shamefull death, I see
no escape or freedome.

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torment of e-
very offender.



Tush (said the Fox) my deare Nephew, if this be the
worst, let no sorrows affright you : but let us be cheerefull and
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
would

The pleasant History

would steal my death, yet will I be exalted above them all :
 well may they prate and jangle, and tire themselves with
 their counsels : but without the help of my wit and policie,
 neither can the Court or Common-wealth have any long con-
 tinuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my
 Castle and feast. I have here a paire of fat Pigeons for you
 which are meate of pure and light digestion, I love not any
 thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost
 swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood,
 yet come I say, my wife Ermelin will receive you kindly : but
 by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of
 soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sodaine
 sickness, for women are apt to entertaine grief. When we
 have feasted, I will then to morrow earlie in the morning go
 with you to the Court, and if I can but attaine speech with
 the King, I shall gain some deap enough, onely this I desire
 (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as
 one friend and kinsman ought to do to another. Doubt me
 not (said Grimbarde) for both my life and goods shall be at your
 service. I thanke you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall
 not find me ingratefull. Sir (said the Wench) be bold of
 this, that you shall come and make your answer before the
 Lords frelie, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that
 favour the Queen and the Libard have purchast from the
 King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) now care I then a haire
 for their worst malice. And this said, they went into Male-
 pardus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings,
 who presentlie arose, and received the Wench with all rebe-
 rence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children
 with all courtesie : presentlie the two Pigeons were made rea-
 die, and they stepped together, each taking their part, though
 none had so much as they desired : then said the Fox, Nephew
 how like you my children Rosel and Reinardine? I hope they
 will do honour to our familie, they are towarde me I assure you,
 for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed
 a Quail : they are also good workers, and can both deceive the
 Hawks and the Hounds : I tell you true, I will not lie.

of Reynard the Fox.

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adventure them farre, onely I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Hens, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds, they are of the right haire Nephew, and like me, both in countenance and qualitie, they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Fox. and in this they are perfect, which is great pride unto me.

CHAP. 18.

How the Fox repenting his sinnes, doth make his confession and is absolved by the Brock.

UPONCE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward children, and reioice because they are of my blood. I thanke you Nephew. (said the Fox) but I know your journey hath made you wearie, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented, so they laid them down upon strawe litter, and all slept soundlie, but the Fox, whose heart was heaue with sorowe, laie studying how he might best excuse himselfe before the King. But as soone as the morning began to rise from the tops of the Mountaines, he arose and went with Grimbard towards the Court, yet before he went, he tooke leaue of his wife and children, and said, Thinke not mine absence long (dear wife and children) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my state be moze then ordinarie, yet take no affright thereat, and what tidings soeber you hear, yet consider all things for the best, and be carefull of your selues, and keep my Castle close and well guarded: as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what mooves you to take this suddain journey? the last time you were at the Court you know what dangers you escaped, and you vowed neuer to see it againe. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrences of the world are diuers and uncertaine, and we are subject to the strokes of Fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity that I goe, and I hope my stay shall not be a breue sike dases

at

at

The pleafant Hiftory

at the uttermoft, and fo embracing his wife and childzen, he tooke leafe and departed ; and as they journeyed oher the Heath, Reynard faid to the Wrook: Propheew, fince I was laft ftricken, I have committed many fins, therefore I befech you let me make before you my confeffion, that I may paffe with leffe trouble through my worft dangers.



Then

of Reynard the Fox.

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When he proceeded and said: It is true I prophesied, that I made
the Bear receive a great wound for the Male which I did
cut off his skinnie, and I caused the Wolfe and his wife to



be stript of his shoes: I appealed the King onely with false-
hood, I fained a conspiracie against his Majesties life by the
Bear and the Wolfe, when there was never any such deter-
mination:

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The Morall.

The Foxes thriving himselfe to the Brock, thewes the Art of all dissemblingers, which ever make devorition on their cloak. By the buying of the foale of the Mare is shewed, that when proud men make instruments of wiser then themselves, &c. such as affect not their qualities, the service they do them is ever to bring them to mischief, &c. Also when ambition or covetousnesse blinds men, and makes them trust onely in their owne skill and knowledge, that then they are ever so dainly overtaken with one mischief or another, and made a mocke and scorne to their foes, and

mination: also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Hulsterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I gave Kyward, and betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Conie, and killed Dame Sharpebeake, the Wakes wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shift one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveale it, and thus it was.

As I went talking with the Wolfe betweene Houthlust and Elverding, we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing, with a backe foale by her side, which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolfe at that instant was almost dead for hunger in so much that he intreated me to goe to the Mare, and know if she would sell her foale: I went: and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for Pouis: I then asked the price? and she said, the price was written in her hinder foote, which if I pleased I might come and read at my pleasure, but I that well understood her politike anger, said, It is truth that I cannot reade, neither doe I desire to buye your foale, onelie I am a messenger from the Wolfe, who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come himselfe, and I will give him satisfaction: When went I to the Wolfe, and told him what the Mare said, assuring him that if he pleased, he might have his bellie full of the foale, provided he could read, for the price was written in the Mares hinder foot. Read (said the Wolfe) what should aile me; I can, Cousin read both Latin, French, English, and Dutch, I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors, I have heard manie stately Platoes, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Lawes, nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for him there; away he went to the Mare, and craved that he might see and read the price of the foale: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder foot, which was newlie shod with strong iron, and seaven sharp nailles heads, as the Wolfe lapt thereon, she smote him so just upon the fore-head, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead swoond whilest a man might have ridden a mile and better, which done, alwaies trotted the Mare with her Colt. and

of Reynard the Fox.

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and left the poore Wolfe bloodie and wounded, in so much that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Isegrim, deare Uncle, how doe you, have you eaten too much of the Colt: indeed you are unkinde, that will give mee no part with you. I went your message honestlie, me thinks you have out slept your didner, good Uncle tell me what was written under the Pares foote, was it in Prose or Rime: indeede I would faine knowe it: I thinke it was a Rich-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your Scholler-ship in all the Arts.

such as led
them blind-
fold into the
evill.

Alas, Reynard, (alas said the Wolfe) I pray you forbear to disgrace me, for I am extremelie wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pittie mee. The damned Mare on her long legge hath an iron foot, and I tooke the nailes to have brent Letters, on which I looked, she hit me so full on the head that I thinke my skull is cloven. Deare Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me: beleve it, you make me wonder, why I tooke you for one of the greatest Clarkes in this Kingdome: Well, I perceibe the old Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Poore men sometimes may outstrip them in judgement, and the reason is, you great Schollers studie so much, that you growe dull, in that you so much overlabour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolfe within a hairens breadth to destruction. And now faire Rephebo, I have unladed my Conscience, and delibered as many of my sins as I can call to my remembrance, wherefore I beseech you let me receive absolution and penance, and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. When Grimbard said your trespasses are great and hainous, neverthelesse who is dead, must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolbe you, upon assurance of your heartie repentance: onelie the contempt you made in sending him Kywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lie heavie upon you. Why (said the Fox) be that will live in the world to see this, heare that, and understand the third, must ever converse with affliction.

Chaucer

The pleasant History

No man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingers. I often feeke touches of repentance, but reason and our will are euer in continuall combat, so that I oft stand still as at my helpe end and crie out against my sinnes, feeling a detestation of them. But presently the world and her vanities appear to me againe: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to iachant me, that I am forthwith taken againe: the world fills me with covetousnesse, and the flesh with wantonnesse; so that losing my good resolutions, I am onely for Hell and wickednesse. I hear their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth, and I see their wordes and actions so contrary, that nothing is more incertain and various: from them I learn my lying, and from Lords Courts my flatterie: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests, and Clerkes, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: and he that cannot dissimble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still grace with falshood: for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly and without knowledge: yet having a handsome garment, it euer goes for current. (Dear Nephew) it is now a fashion to lie, flatter, scold, threaten, pray, and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that cannot winneable falshood, in truthes kerchiefe, hath neither Art nor cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver error without stammering, he may do wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gaine both by the Labors spirituall and temporall, and write himself conquerour in every designement. There be many that imagine they can lie neatly, but their cunning oft failes them; so that when they thinke to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method, marre all their discourses, but he that can gibe to his lie a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rattling, and make it as truth appear fair and amiable: What is the man and worthe of admiration. With to speak truth is

no cunning, it neber makes the Debill laugh: to lie well and with a grace: to list up wrong above right: to make mountaines and build Castles in the aire: to make men juggle and look thozow their fingers, and all for the hope of gaine onely. This, Nephew, is an Art beyond expression: yet ebermore of the end cometh miserie and affliction. I will not denie but sometimes men may jest or lie in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To plaie Placebo, may now and then be begun with; for who so speaks alwaies truth, shall find many rubs in his way: men may erre for need and mend it by counsell, since no trespassse but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime dulseth. When (said the Wock) Uncle you are so wise you cannot faile in any purpose, and I would grow inamoured of you, your reasons so far surpassse my understanding, that it is no need of your shift, for your self may both play the Priest and confessor: you know the woold in such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses they held on their journe towards the Court: yet the Foxes heart (for all his faire shew) was sad and heabie, yet countenance becozained it not: but he past without amazement thzough all the presse of the Court, eben till he came to the pzesence of the King, and the Wock march'd close by his side, saying, Uncle, be not afraid, but be of good chere, it is courage of whom Fortune is eber enamoured. Then (said the Fox) Nephew you say true, and your comfort abailes me, and so on he went, casting many disdainfull countenances on those he lik'd not: or as who would say, Here I am: what is it that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin, which he knew lobed him not, as the Otter, the Bever, and others others which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which lobed him. As soone as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humble on his kne, and spake as followeth.

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CHAP. 9.

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King ;
and of the Kings answer.

That diuine power from whom nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Ladie the Quene, and giue
them grace to knowe who hath right and who hath wrong, for



them

there are many false shewes in the world, and the countenance bewaileth not the heart: which I wish were openly revealed, and that every creatures trespass stood written in his forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance, or that you (my soveraigne Lord) knew me as nêrely as my selfe, and how I dispose my selfe earely and late, labouring in your service. For which cause onelie malice makes all her complaints against mee, striving to thrust mee out of your grace and favour. Insomuch that out of my anguish I must needs crie shame upon them which have so deadlie belied me. Nevertheless I know that you my Lord, and soveraigne Ladie, are so excellent in your judgement, that you will not be carried awaie with falsehoods: and therefore I most humbly beseech your Majesties to take into your wisdom all things according to the right of your lawes: for it is justice I looke for, and desire that he which is found guilty, may feelee the weight of his punishment. For beleve it, dread Lord, it shall be knowne before I depart from your Court who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew my face with an unblemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed, and wondred when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a statelie countenance said: Reynard, I know you are expert in fallacies, but words are now too weake to reliebe you. I beleebe this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace: for me I will not chide you much, because I intend you shall live but a short time, the love you doe beare me, you have shewed to the Countie and the Cooke, and your requitall shall be a short life on earth. The ancient saying is, A pot may passe long to the water, but in the end it comes broken home. And your evils have so long succeeded, that they will now paie you the hazard: at these words Reynard was stricken into a great feare and wish'd himselfe farre away, yet he thought himselfe that now he must beare thozow, what fortune shewer came: whereupon he said (My Soveraigne Lord the King) it is but justice that you beare mee answer my accusations, for were my faults more hainous then envie can make them, yet equitie

The pleasant History

gives he accused leave eber to answer. I have both my counsaile done you services in former times, and may no lesse still : I have never starved from your Majesties, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence : if then mine enemies with their slanders shall prebail against me, blame me not to complaine. Time hath been it was otherwise, and mine may bring it to the old course, for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here dibers of my kindred and friends which now make no value of me, whom I can approve goe about to depzeive you of the best servant you possesse. Can your Majestie imagine if I had bene guiltie in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance even in the throng of mine enemies ? W it had bene to much indiscretion, nor would the libertie I had, bene so easily subjected. But heaven be thanked I know mine innocence, and dare confront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbarde first brought me the tidings, I must confesse I was halfe distract with anger, and had I not bene in the cure of his Church, I had appear'd ere they had left complaining, but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrows on the heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin, the Ape, who farre exceedeth a Priest in Pastozall businesse, for he hath bene Atturney to the Bishop of Camerick any time this nine yeres : and seeing me in this great agony of heart, hee said, Deare Cousin, why are you thus heabie in spirit, and why is your countenance dejected ? grief is easie to carrie when the burthen is divided amongst friends : For the nature of a true friend is to behold and reliebe that, which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, You saie true deare Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrows is without cause laid upon me, and of that I am not guiltie, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends : As namelie the Conte, who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins, saying he was travailling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and wearie : and therefore requested of me some meat, I willingly consented, took him in and gave

of Reynard the Fox.

gave him a couple of Pancakes and sweet Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Besides it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitsonide

The Morall.

The boldnesse of the Foxes appearance & speech, shewes the impudence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his own boldnes to bolster out his cause, still cries for Justice and hearing, not so much to excuse himselfe as to accuse others, and by digressions & extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to resist any thing against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King, is shewed the ignorance and foolish blindness of the old times which would thrall Kings under the Popes Curles, and make them



was nere. At which time we must have clenched and prepared hearts, Et vos estote parati. Note when he had almost well

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subject to his
Commands,
though they
were never so
heathenish &
Diabolical.
By his excu-
sing him of the
crimes against
the Coney and
the Rooke, is
shewed that
whosoever is
resolved to do
an ill act will
never make
conscience to
tell a loud Lie
nor is he ever
unprovided
thereof, be-
cause they are

well refreshed himselfe, my youngest son Rossel came in
and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the
nature of Children is ever to be eating and craving.) But
presentlie the Coney smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth
bled, and the poor foole fell downe almost in a swoone, which
when as Reynardine (my eldest son) beheld: he forth-
with leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and
questionlesse had slaine him, had I not come to the rescue.
Which done I went and gave my son correction for his
fault. But presentlie Laprell the Coney post to my Lord
the King, and informes that (my selfe) sought means to
murder him. Thus I am accused without cause and brought
in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But
not long after came Corbrant the Rooke flying to my house
with a sad noise, and demanding what he asked? He an-
swered: Alas, my wife is dead, I craved the cause, he said:
A dead Hare lying on the hearth full of mathes and Vermine,
of which she had eaten so much, that the wormes had gnawed
her

of Reynard the Fox.

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her throat in sunder; and without speaking to me any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I slew his wife, which how could I by any possible meanes doe, considering she flieth in the aire, and I walke a-foot on the ground? Thus (dear Uncle) you see how I am slandered, but it may be it is for my old sinnes, and therefore I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Prophete, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsell to the Wolfe to forsake his holy orders, when he complained to me of his unablennesse to endure that strict life, and much fasting: of which Act I now much repent me, since he repaith my love with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all the slanders he can invent, stirreth his Majestie daylie against me. These things (dear Uncle) bring me to my wits end, for of necessitie I must goe to Rome for absolution, and in mine absence, what injurie may happen to my wife and children through the malice of these bloudy wretches, any one may guesse: whereas on the other part were I free of the Popes curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead mine owne cause, and turn their malice into their own bosomes.

Then said the Ape, Cousin cast off your sorrow, for I know the way to Rome well, and am experienced in these businesses for I am called the Bishops Clerke, therefore I will go thither, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, and in spite of his will, bring you from the Pope a well sealed absolution.

But man, I have many great friends there, as mine Uncle Simon and others prentice, Wayt, Scath, and the like, all which will stand unto me: besides I will not go unfurnished of money, for I know prayers are best heard with gifts, and the Law hath no feet to walke on but money: a true friend is tried in necessitie, and you shall find me without dissembling; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presentlie to Rome, and in the mean time, here I quit you of all your sins and offences, and only put them upon my selfe: when you come to the

the garment, which he ever cloathes his knavery with. By the Apes friends in Rome, as Simon, or Simanie Prentice or take all, and Wait Scath or do mischief, is shewed the wickedness of these daies in Rome, & how by much meanes a man might purchase any thing he went about.

By his insinuating with the Apes wife (who was the a great favorite about the Queene) is shewed, the art of a subtil head, that to gaine himselfe a strong party will not spare any false invention, for against those great ones dare not the inferior open their lips.

By the slight of the Conie & the Rook, is shew'd how

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soon the weak
are terrified &
danted with
the threat-
nings of the
strong and
mighty, that it
is better to sit
downe with
wrong, then to
contend with
one that hold-
eth mo strong
a party. And
also how by
such advantage
the offender
takes heart &
thereon
grounds the
strength of his
greater inno-
cence.

By the Lyon
last accusation
and the Foxes
defection, is
shewed that
when truth &
authoritie stand
up against the
wicked, that
then stung
with his owne
conscience,
he is able to
abide no lon-
ger, but with
silence and
downe-cast
look, he shews
plainely the
guile which
lies within
him.

Court, you shall finde there Dancie Ruknaw my wife, her two
sisters, and my three Children, with diuers others of our fa-
mily. I pray you saue them from me, and shew them mine
occassions: my wife is exceeding wise, and shee shall finde that
her distressed friends shall not thinke when I can helpe them.
I knowe she is faithfull and as behoues her, will neuer leaue
her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be
more then you can beare, send presently to me to Rome, and
not an enemy that you haue, be it King or Queene, or Sub-
ject, euen from the higheſt to the lowest, but I will presently
put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Inter-
diction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be performed till you
haue right and iustice restored you.

This assure your selfe I can easilie performe, for his hol-
nesse is very old and little regarded, and onely nobs Cardinal
Pere-gold beareth all the sway in the Conclabe, as being
young, and rich in many friends: besides, hee hath a concu-
bine, of whom hee is farre enamoured, that he denies no-
thing shee demandeth: his Ladie is my niece, and will doe
whatsoeuer I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly to the
King, and charge him to doe you Justice, which I knowe hee
will, since he understands the Lawes are made for the use of
all men.

This (my Soberaigne Lord the King) when I heard him
speake I smiled, and with great joy came thither to relate unto
you the truth: therefore if there be any Creature within this
Court, that can charge me with any trespass whatsoeuer,
and prove it by testimony as the Law requirerh, or if other-
wise, hee will appose himselfe against me, person to person,
grant me but a date, and equal lists, and in combat I will
maintaine my innocence against him, provided hee be equall to
me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood con-
stant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now
be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this, they were
dumbe, and amazed to behold his stoutnesse. As for the Conis
and the Hoke, they were so scared they durst not speak, but
perish.



privately stole away out of the Court, and being farre on the plaine, they said, This diabolish murderer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can looke with better countenance, which onlie our selbes knowe, but have no other witnessse, therefore it is better wee depart, then try combat with him, which is so much too wrong for us, and so away they went.

Ifegrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Beare, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeale the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday wee were laden with complaints, where are they to daie? here is the Fox ready to answer. Then said the Fox, My soveraigne Lord, absence makes empudent accusers, when presence daunts them, as your highnesse may see both by the Coney and the Rooke: What it is to trust the malice of these Cowards, and howe soon they may confound good men: but for us it matters not: neverthelesse had they (at your Majesties commandement) but aske me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behinde

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behinde mee, for I will neber shake hands with charitie, nor eber hate or complaine of mine enemies: my rebenge I leaue to heauen, and iustice to your Majesties. When said the King, Reynard, you speake well, if the inward heart be like the outward shew, yet I feare your grieve is not such as you expresse it: It farre surmounts it, said the Fox: No (quoth the King) for I must charge you with one foule treason, which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to goe a pilgrimage to the holy Land: when I had furnished you with mone, state, and all things fitting that holy Order, then in the greatest despite you sent me backe in the male by Bellin the Ham, the head of Kyward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin (our Chaplain) at his death revealed the whole processe, and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall faile me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to saie, but looked with a pittifull countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him: his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foote to helpe him: then the King said, Thou dissembling and false traitor, how art thou now dumbe? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have broke, so that euerie Beast pittied him, save onely the Beare and the Wolfe, which much rejoiced to behold his sorrow.

CHAP. 20.

How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the Fox to the King, and of the parable she told.

DAME *Rukenaw* the she Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard and a great favorite of the Quenes) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speake: and therefore rising up, (after reberence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be possesed with

of Reynard the Fox.

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with anger, when you sit in judgement, for it becommeth not
 Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should
 onely accompanie you in that reason: for mine owne part I
 thinke I knowe the Lawes as well as some which beare furred
 Coates, for I have read manie, and put some in use: It is
 well known, I had ever in the Popes pallace a bed of straw,
 when

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By the three Apes answering for the Fox, is shewed how apt weake women are to be flattered into any believe, in which they may either expresse their pittie, or gaine glory. Also it shewes the verifing of the old proverbe, That a Friend in Court, is ever worth a pound in a mans purse.

By the violence of her defence, is shewed, the true nature of a woman that evermore runs into extreames, and so she may do the good or evil she intends, will not keep any thing concealed which may any way worke for her purpose: nor yet any thing

when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, and I was ever suffered to speak freely without interruption, because I talke not beyond mine experience. It is Senecas opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men, nor may the law waiver or halt with any partiality. I do not thinke but if every man which standeth here should call to account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pittie much the state of my poor kinsman Reynard, and therefore I wish every one to know himselfe, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that never erred, he is so good that he needeth no amendment. To do amisse and mend it by counsel, is humane and manly: but to trespassse and still gallop forward in iniquitie, is debilitie and unsufferable: the holy Book saith, Be mercifull and judge not least you be judged. And in another place, when the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adulterie, and would have stoned her to death, asking our Lord what he said thereto: he answered: Which of you all is without sinne, let him cast the first stone: but they all departed and left her. In mine opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that find straws in others eyes, but see not beams in their owne: he that falleth off, and in the end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: Goodnesse never forsaketh her owne servants. This counsel, would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so darke as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well knowne that both his Grandfather and Father ever beare greater reputation in this Court, then either Bruine or Isgrim, or their whole generations. Alas, when have their counsels or wisdomes ben woorthy to have held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards? why, the passages of the world are to them Prophecies which they understand not, and the Court is turned topsie turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed: but how this can long endure I see not. Since the end of their labour is but the ruine of your Majestie.

To this speech the King made this answer: Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature: you cannot blanie me to hate.

of Reynard the Fox.

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hate him, since it is onely he which breaketh my labours and co-
venants : you have heard him accused of theft, murder and
treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs make
him your Saint, then set him upon the Alter and do him wor-
ship, but beleefe it, there is no one good thing in him : and
how eber you imagine, yet search him and you shall finde him
rotten and defozmed, there is neither kinsman nor friend (but
your selfe) that will assist him, and therefore your violence
drabes my greater wonder. What companion hath he that
eber thrived by his society, or to whom hath he smil'd on, that his
taile hath not after dash't out the eye of?

unurged .
which may
disgrace those
that are of
the contrary
faction, as
may appeare
by the tale of
the Man and
the Serpent
in which the
sheweth the
wisdome of
the Fox, and
the folly and
disability of
the Beare, the
Wolf and the
rest of the
Foxes ene-
mies.

To this the she Ape replied : My Lord, I love him, and
have eber borne him a singular reverence, and I can well re-
count one noble and good action hee did in your presence : for
which then you thanked him, though it be now forgotten : yet
the heaviest thing should eber weigh the most, and men should
keepe a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with
violence, since constancy is the greatest oznamment of a Prince-
ly nature. We should not praise the day till the evening come,
nor is it good counsell available but to those which meane to
pursue it.

ackman. 83 C 4

I remember about some two yeares since, there came to
this Court a man and a Serpent, to have judgement in a dubt-
full controverisie : for the Serpent attempting to goe through
a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was
no waie for him to escape with life : A certane man passing
by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his
helpe, or else he should perish presently. The man taking pit-
tie of him (said) If thou wilt faithfully promise me, neither
to doe me hurt with thy tooth or taile, or other payson about
thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swoze hee
would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter : so the
man unlocked him and set him free, and they went forth and
travailed together a long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing
upon the man offered to kill him : but the man started aside,
and said : What meanest thou to doe? hast thou forgotten
thine

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thinge oath: the Serpent replied no: but I may iustlie kill thee
 Once I am compelled thereto by hunger, which cancelleth all
 obligations. Then the man said, if it be so, yet giue me leaue to
 liue till we may meet with the next passenger which may iudge
 the controverisie.

The Serpent agreed thereto: so they travelled till they met
 with

of Reynard the Fox.

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with Tisellin the Kaben, and Slinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Kaben adjudged that the Serpent should eat the man, hoping that he and his sonne should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a rebber and libes by blood, judge this cause? it must not be one but others, and such as know both Law and equitie, that must judge this contention: the Kaben is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged as against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his venom at the man, but the man leapt away, and said, You do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill me, and the Serpent said, hath not the judgement gone twice on my side? Yes (said the Man) by such as are murderers themselves, and such as never kept promise: but I appeale unto the Court, let me be tried by your King, and what judgement he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majestie, and the Wolves two children came with their father, the one was called Empty-belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the Man: So the full processe of the matter was declared to your Majestie: both the Mans kindnesse and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith breach, occasioned through the extremitie of hunger. Remember how much your Highnesse was perplexed with their difference, and all your Counsell also: For the Mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the Mans goodnesse, and the Serpents ingratitude, equallie raised much pittie in your bosome. But in the end such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At last, when no helpe could be found, then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to decide the businesse: then was he the Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majestie it was impossible to give true Judgement according to their relations, but if he might see the Serpent in that manner as he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgement there.

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thereth. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snared, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as befoze in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majestie, Reynard what judgement will you now



give? And he replied, They are now my Lord in the same estate they were befoze at their first encounter, they have neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure if it be your Majesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and unbinde the Serpent upon the same promise and oath made formerlie unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if hee thinke that hunger or other inconvenience will make him breake his faith, then may the man goe freely whither hee will, and leaue the Serpent bound and intyaled as hee first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repayed. This judgement

of Reynard the Fox.

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ment your Majestie then applauded for most excellent, and held the wisdom of the Fox unlimitable, learning him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear or Wolfe the like? they can howle or scould, steale, robbe, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruines: and condemne him to death which takes a Chicken? but themselves which kill Wine, Oren and Hozes, & they go safe and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen or Aristotle, and their deeds and Statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where vertue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go for most, whilst they follow in the retreat with shame and cowardize. These (my Lord) and their like, are the foles of the corrupt times, yet destroy Townes, Castles, Lands and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warme them by the fire: for it is their profit onely at which their aime bendeth. But Reynard the Fox and all his Familie have ever made the honour of the King their renowne and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: this hath bene and is his exercise though it now be thanklesse. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majestie saies his kindred is all fallen from him and start at his Fez une: would any but your Highnesse had affirmed it: you should then have seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you: for to him that durst so do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highnes may call to minde the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing ever to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard. For mine own part I am one my self, and albe I am the wife of another, yet for him I would not sticke to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have thres full grown Children, which are known valiant and strong in armes, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost perill. Albe I love them with that deare affection that no other

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ther doth exceed me: my first sonne is called Bitelus which is most active and nimble, my second, Fulrumpe, the third is a daughter called Hatanet, a girl that can looke a mans head, and pick out lice more nimbly then all the combes in Christeridome: and these three are loving and dear to one another and with that she called them forth unto her, and said:



Come my deare children and stand with your kinsman the Noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient familie, and be all petitioners to the King, that he would do to Reynard the equitie of his Lawes and Kingdome. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel and the Ferret: for those love Villaine as well as Reynard, doth. Then came the Otter and Pantecrote his wife, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Beare against the Fox, but now they dare not but obey Dame Rukewaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdome and greatnesse: and with these came above thentie other

her Beasts for her sake and stood by Reynard. Then came also dame Airot and her two sisters, the Weasel and Hermet the Asse, the Wacke, the water Cat, and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concerne them. Then said the she Ape: My Lord the King, now you may see that my kinsman hath friends which dare abole him, and we are your true and loyall Subjects, which will neber faile to do you faithfull service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majestie, that Reynard may have Justice: and if he be not able to disprove his adbersaries, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law passe, for we will not murmur to his destruction.

Then said the Quene to Rukenaw: Thus much I told unto his Majestie yester day, but his anger was so great, he would not geve eare to me. Also the Lybard said, Sir, you must judge according to witness: for to be governed by will, is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you informe me: but the disgrace done to my partiallar selfe in Rywards death, and other informations to rob'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to looke backe either to Law or reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himselfe of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his libertie, and the rather for his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithfull and loyall.

O how infinitely glad was the Fox, when he heard these words: and said in himself. Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me new blossomes on my dyed Roses, and set me in a faire path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance one: and I doubt not but to use my art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered for my renowne and victory.

The plealant History

CHAP. 21.

How *Reynard* excused himselfe of *Kywards* death, and all other imputation, got the Kings favour, and made a relation of certaine Jewels.



askman.
Bt. 9. 2. p. 5

Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said: Alas my soveraigne Lord, what is that you said? Is good Kyward the Hare dead? And where is then Belline the Kammie, or what did he bring to your Majestie at his returne? For it is certaine I delibered him three rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chiefe of them I determined to you my Lord the King, and the other two to my soveraigne Lady the Quene. But (said the King) I receibed nothing but the head of poore murdered Kyward, for which I executed the Kammie, having confest the deed to be done by his advice and counsell. Is this truth (said the Fox) then woe is me that ever I was borne.

of Reynard the Fox.

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horne, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I knowe it will be the death of my wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteeme me. Then said the shee Ape: Dear Phebe, why should you sorrow thus for transitory wealth? Let them goe, onely discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them againe: If not, the Magician M. Alkarin shall labour his books and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever detaines them, shall be curst in all Parishes till he restore them to the Kings Majestie. An Aunt (said the Fox) doe not perswade your selfe so, for whosoever hath them, will not restore them to gaine an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words do something appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctitie it selfe walkes maske and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he guiled his dissimulation, he proceeded on and said, Harken all you of my stock and lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majestie) was a King of fine and pure gold, and within this King next the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing three Phebes names. For my own part I could neither read nor spell them, but M. Abrion of Trere, the excellent linguist, who knoweth the Natures of all manner of Beasts, Beast and Minerals: So this famous Jew I shewed the King once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which Serh brought out of Paradise when he brought to his Father Adam the Oyle of mercy. And whosoever shall wear these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder or Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to do any sinne, neither shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the King was encaust a most precious Stone of three severall colours: The first like red Christall, and glittering like fire, and that with such brightnesse, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

*FabulGur. 2. 76.
Adam - 11. 1. 1.*

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The Morall.

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels and their severall vertues and riches is shewed the policy of the wicked which are ever prepared of those baints which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as wealth, health honour, & vertue: all which belodged in those Jewels. As for the stories contained in them, the The Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemies, & such examples are evermore bitter, and worke more in the minds of the hearers, then any vio-



the light thereof was so great as that at Noone day. The other colour was white and cleare, as if it had been burnished, and the vertue of it was to cure any blemish or sozenesse in the eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by stroking the place grieved therewithall) it presently cured all manner of swellings, head-ache, or any sickness whatsoever: Whether it were

of Reynard the Fox

were benome, weakenesse of stomack, chollick, stone, strong-
gulsion, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applyed as afore-
shewed, or inwardly by steeping the stone in water, and then
drinking the same, the last colour was green like grasse mixt
with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed
for truth, that whosoever weares this stone about him, could
neber be vanquisht by his enemies, and that no creature were he
neber so strong and hardie, but he shall yield to him, and he
should be victor day and night in all places: againe, as farre
as one bore it fasting, into what company soever he chanced
(albe his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely be-
loved, nor should any anger or evil turne be remembred: Also
if one should be naked in a vast wilde field against an hundred
— armed enemies, yet should not his heart faile him, but he
should come off with honour and victory: onely he must be Ho-
nourably bred, and of no churlish disposition, for the King gave
no vertue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all
these vertues considered, I thought my self unworthy to keep
it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing
you to be the excellentest of all creatures living, and one on
whom all our lives depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded
with so rich a Jewell.

This King I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the
same place also I found a Combe and a glasse Mirrore, which
my wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder and
admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Quene, because
of her grace and mercy extended towards me: As speak of the
Combe; it can neber be too much praised, for it was made of
the bone of a noble beast named Panthera, which lieth between
the greater India & earthly Paradise: he is so goodly and faire
of colour, that there is no beautifull colour under heaben but
some splendor thereof appears in him: also the smell of
him is delicately sweet and wholesome, that the very labour
cureth all infirmities, and for his excellent beauty and rare
odour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he is the
Physitian to all their sicknesses. The Panthera hath one
faire bone broad and thin, which whensoever this beast is

lent speech of
invention
whatsoever.

By the repea-
ring of his and
his Fathers
services, is
shewed, the
subtill insin-
uation of offen-
ders, which to
extenuate pre-
sent crimes
call to mind
their good
deeds past

not so much
for the memo-
ry of the good
example, as to
beg a new re-
ward, though
it have been
never so often
paid for, for
noble spirits
have ever a
tender feeling,
and are soone
touched with
the remem-
brance of any
good turns re-
ceived, for it
is an obligati-
on they seldom
cancel.

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aine, all the vertues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone
which can neuer be broken, neither euer rot, consume oz perishe



either by fire, water, oz other violence : yet it is so light a smal
feather may poise it : the smell of it hath that vertue, that
who soeuer sends it, taketh delight in no other thing but to
see, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases
and infirmities, and the heart is chearefull and merry euer
after.

This combe is poli shed like unto fine silber, and the teeth of it
be small and straight, and betwixen the great teeth and the small
in a large field oz space, there is graven many an Image, sub-
tly made, and cunningly inamelled about with fine gold :
the field is checked with Sables and Silber, and enamelled
with Cybor and Azure : and therein is contained the story how
Venus, Juno, Pallas strove for the golden Ball in the moun-
taine Ida, and how it was put to Paris, to give it to the fair-
est of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his flocks
with

with Oenon on that hill, and as soon as he had received the Ball, Juno promised if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest man in the world. Pallas said, if she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the world, and the most fortunate against his enemies: But then Venus said, what needst thou wealth, wisdoms or valour? art thou not Priamus sonne and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the heires of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the world, and that shall be the fairest Ladie breathing, the whose like no Summe shall eber againe behold, so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climbe above all in glorie: that's the wealth none can praise too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turnes all things in man to joy and contentment.

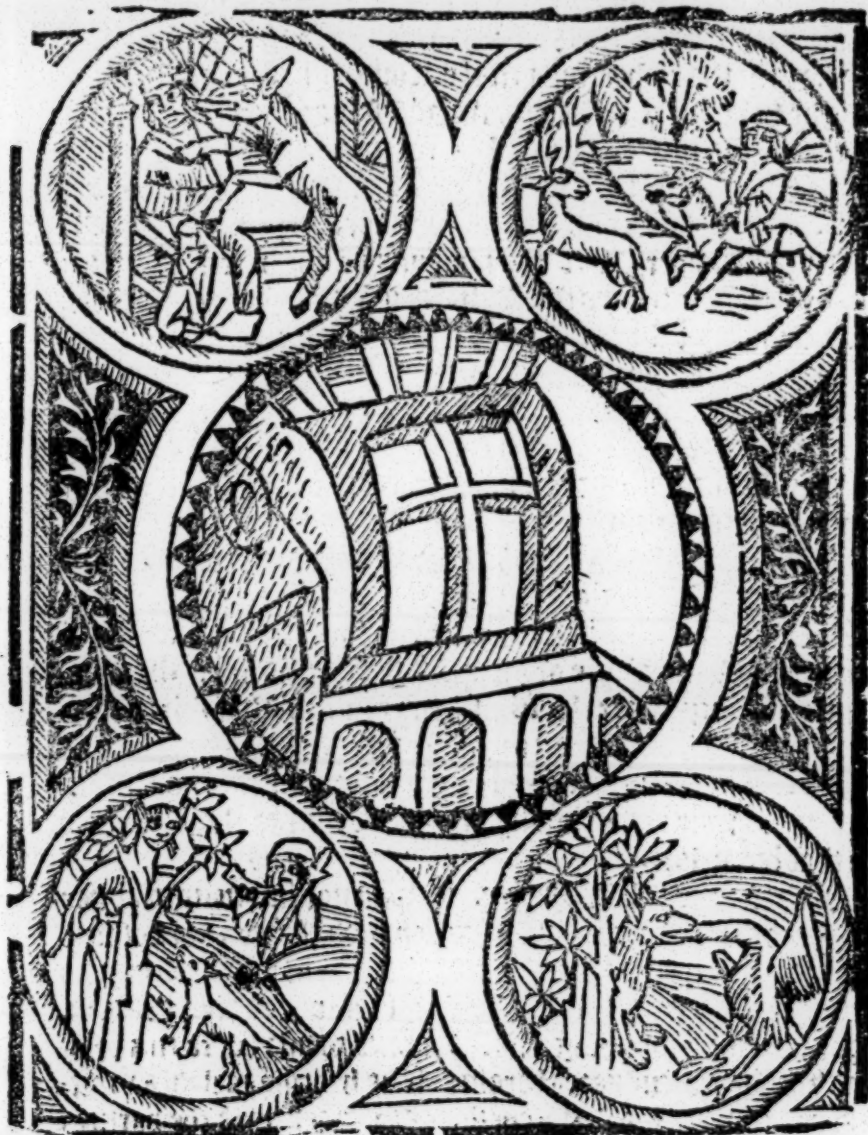
When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Ladie, and Venus said, It is faire Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus, she that is the Gem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glorie of all eyes which behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then in another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnitie at the marriage, the honour at the triumphs, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glasse-Appar. it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glasse which stood thereon was of such vertue, that men might see & perceiue therein whatsoeuer was done within a mile thereof, whether it were the actions of men, or beasts, or any thing else the owner would desire to know, and whosoever but gaze therein, if he had any maladie whatsoeuer, it was presently cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glasse, that wonder not if I shew reares to thinke of the losse: for the wood in which this Glasse stood was light and fast, and is called Catine, it will last eber: for wormes, dust, wet nor time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon seled his Temple with the same: the value exceeds far the value of gold, it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King

Crampart

Althou 155 Cop d

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Hronpardes. Crampart made a Horse, for the love of the most beautiful
in original low German Daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horse was made with
-no mention of such Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he
Morcadiges or would run aboue an hundred miles in lesse then an houre,
Ciamades. which was appoyed by Clamades the Kings sonne, who not
 believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon
 the

of Reynard the Fox.

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the Horse, and presentlie Crampart turning a pin that stood in the brest of the Engine, niched, and went out of the Palace through the windowes, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten mile, Clamares was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the storie said) that he should neber have returned back againe: but of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and governe the wooden beast. I leaue to speake for tediousnesse sake, owely the high vertue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glasse-case was made, being larger then the Glasse by halfe a foot and more square, upon which berge was decyphred diuers many strange Histories in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Pelloto, Azure and Cynope: and these colours were very curiously brought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraben and enameled, that any man might read the whole Storie: believe it, the world neber produced a thing of greater worth, lustre or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his naturall glory, fat, faire, and fierie, which chased a statelie Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake the Hart in swiftnesse, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a Herdsman standing by, and told him, if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the hognes, skin, and flesh: Then the Herdsman asked him what meanes he should use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with trying we take him. The Herdsman tooke his offer, and bestriding the Horse followed the Deare: but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bide the Herdsman alight, for he would rest himselfe awhile. But the Herdsman said: I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heles, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seemes best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himselfe into thealdome, and was taken in his own net, for no creature

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hath a greater adberfarie then his owne enbie, and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their owne ruines.

In another part was figured an Asse and an Hound, which were both the servants of a rich man: This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dogge to faune and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Asse saw this, he began to enbie the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foule Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kisse him? I see no profitable service he doth him. I labour, beare and drave, and do more service in one weeke then the dogge and his whole kinde are able to do in a year, and yet have I not the tythe of his labours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillowes: when I that do all am fed onely with Pettles and Chistles: well, I will no longer indure it but I will studie to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anone the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting up his taile, leapt with his fore feet on his shoulders, and baying and grinning, and put forth his mouth to kisse him, and used such rude unmanly action, that he rub'd all the skin from his Masters eare, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forced to crie out help, help, for this Asse will kill me. Then came in his servants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slaine: which done, he returned to his stall againe, and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which do enbie and spight at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more then is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse and was borne to eat Chistles: and where Asses govern, there, order is never observed, for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their owne private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pittie.

In another part was figured the Story, how my Father and Tybert the Cat travailed together, and had sworn by their troath,

of Reynard the Fox.

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troath, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other : but it happened on a time they saw Hunters coming over the fields with a kennell of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tybert, whither shall we flee: for the Hunters have espied us: for mine own part I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what needs many words: I have but one wile, and that must help me, and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurkt amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hound could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennell pursued him, horns and halloes echoing after him: kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

Thus when Tybert saw, he mocked my Father, and said: Now cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles, for if your wit faile you, I feare your whole bodie will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himselfe so much lighter, yet all abailed not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many living at this time, and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my soules health and charitie binds me to the contrarie, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred as the remembrance of his injuries which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Apzroz stands another Historie of the Wolfe, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and devour the bones, which he did with such gradines, that swallowing them too hastily done, one fell so crosse his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escaped with life: whereupon

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he sought ebery place for the cunningest Surgions, promising them great gifts to ease his torment: but habing lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and besought him with his long neck and bill to helpe him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane grædy of gaine, put in his head into the wolfs throat, and brought out the Bone. The Wolfe started at the pull, and cried out aloud, thou hurst me, but I doe forgive thee, yet doe it not againe I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not beare it: then the Crane said: Sir Ilegrim, goe and be frolike, for you are whole, I looke for no more but the reward you promised mee: How (said the Wolfe) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complaine, yet he will be rewarded he will not so much as thanke me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to drabe it out againe without hurting, albeit hee put me to exceeding much paine: I suppose it is I which deserbe the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ingratefull men in these daies, how eber they reward good with evill: for whereas pride is exalted, there honour is eber laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and doe good to those that have advanc'd them, which now complaine, and make those advancements injuries, but the guerdon will follow: for it is the wisest counsaile, that whosoever will goe about to chaunge anothe, should ever be sure of his owne clearenesse. All this and a world more then I can well remember was curiously brought on this Classe: for the worke-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clarke in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for mee to keepe: therefore I sent them to the King and Queenes Majesties as a present to witnesse my faith and service: And he that had seen what sorrow my Children made when I sent the Classe away, would have wonderd, for no reason of the great vertue therein, they oft gazed in the same, both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparell became them.

of Reynard the Fox.

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Little did I then imagine that good Kyward was so neere
his death, for then but himselfe, and Bellin the Kari, I knew
no messengers worthy to carry so rich a present. But I will
search the whole world, but I will finde the murtherer, for
murther cannot be hid. It may be he is in this presence
which knowes what is become of Kyward, albe we doe con-
ceale it; for many devills walke like Saints. Yet the greatest
wonder of all is (which troubled me most,) that my Lord the
King should saie, that my Father nor my selfe eber did good.
But the troubles of affaires may well brade forgetfullnesse in
things, otherwise your Majestie might call to minde how
when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not
above two yeares old: My Father came from the Schoole at
Mountpelior, where he had studied fife yeeres the Art of Phi-
sick, and was expert in all the principles thereof, and so famous
in those dayes, that he wore cloathes of Silke and a Golden
Girdle: But when he was come to the Court, he found the
King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief
unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King
rejoyced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his
presence. All others might walke whether they would, onely
he must eber be nere him. Then said your Father, Reynard
I am exceeding sick, and I feele my sicknesses increa-
sing. My Father answered; my Lord, here is an Urinall, make
waier therein, and as soone as I behold your state, I will give
mine opinion. The King did as he was admitted (for he tru-
sted not any equall with him.) Then said my Father: My best
Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the
Liquor of a Wolfe of seven yeeres old, or else your disease is
incurable.

not ment? in
Urinall.

Liver in
Caston

The Wolfe at that time stood by your Father, but said
nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Isegrim, you heare
how there is nothing which can cure mee but your Liquor.
The Wolfe replied: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full
fife yeeres old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let
him be opened, and when I see the Liquor, I will tell you if it
be medicinable: Then was the Wolfe carried to the Kit-
chen.

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chin and his Liquor taken out, which the King eat, and was presently cured of his sickness. Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on paine of death, from thence forth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walked by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses which he must ever beare upon his head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now onely advanced, vertue is put backe, and Innocence lies in fogro's : for when basenesse and cabetousnesse are made Commanders, they neither know themselves, nor looke at the loss of the King from whence they are risen : They have no hearts for pity, nor eares for the poore mans cause. Cold is the goal they runne to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great mans Gate, doth not now locke up Cobetousnesse : where is not flattery entertained, and what Prince takes hate at his own praises : But should greatnesse neede their honest service, well might they starbe ere they could gaine that imployment : For like Wolves they had rather see their Masters dye, then lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This my Lord was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it : Yet (without boasting) I my self may saie, I have done to you both honour and service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeate, which I bow I doe not to upbraid your Majestie, for you are ever worthy of more then I can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyall Subject, which I am ever bound by the lawes of God and nature to performe.

So it was, that on a time Isegrim the Wolfe and I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extream loude crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your selfe came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying : That you and the Quene your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated us to give you part of our getting : Isegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him, but I spake out alouds : With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then it

of Reynard the Fox.

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it is, it were too mean for your service. But Isegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took halfe of the Swine, giuing you and the Quene but one poore quarter, the other he himself unmannerly deuoured, and left me for my share but poore halfe of the Lungs. When your Majestie had eaten your part, you were still hungrie, but the Wolfe would deliber none: so that you reacht him ablo with your foot, which toze all the skin from about his ears, so that he ran away crying and howling with all extremitie. But your Majestie commanded him to returne againe speedily and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Majestie, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his eares dropping bloud all the way as he went: In the end we take a Calfe, and when your Majestie saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me I was a swift Huntsman, and could find demy game quicklie, and therefore I was fit to serbe in time of necessitie: Then you bade me to diuide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majestie, the other half to the Quene: As for the Muggets, Liber, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the head, I gave it to Isegrim the Wolfe, and took unto my self but the feet onely. Then said your Majestie, ha Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous dibitions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits ere with the bloudie pate: for he lost his skin for his too much inequilltie, and for his covetousnesse hath reapt nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these dates, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Nay if they had power, even your Majestie also, for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But hoo to that Common-wealth where such have the upper hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majestie, which were it not for tediousnes sake I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will

one

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one day againe recall them. I haue sene the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my adbtie and censure, though now that Iudgement is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may spring up againe, and be belished as firmly as before, as long as it swerbes not from Justice which is the onely thing I aime at. For if any one can charge me other wise and prove it by witnesse, here I stand to indure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice onely slander me without witnesse, I craue the combat according to the Law and instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard you say well, now know I any thing more of Kywards death then the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Hamme, therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thanke you: yet is his death so grievous unto me I cannot let it passe so easilie: I remember my heart was heaue at his departure, and I was readie to sinke to the ground, which was a certain presage of the losse which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that euerie one bemoaned his losse, and pittied his sorow. But the King and Quene were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels: And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they neuer saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a meane they might be restored to them againe.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Isengrim the Wolfe complained of him againe.

The Fox understood their meauing exceeding well, and though he little meant to perfoyme what they intreated,



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yet he thanked the King and Queene for the comforts they gave him in his great extremitie, bowing not to rest, neither night nor day, but to search all the corners of the earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majestie, that if they should be concealed in such places, where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attaine unto them, that then his Highnesse would assist him both because it was an occasion which concerned him so nērely, as also a thing required from his Office, being an Act of perfect Justice, to punish theft, and murder, both which were contained in this action.

When the King assured him, that so soone as it should be knowne where they were, no helpe or assistance should bee wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastned the King unto him, that now he might goe freely whither hee pleased, and none should dare to complaine upon him: onely Ilegrim the Wolfe stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to containe his anger any longer, hee said: O my Lord the King, is it possible your Majestie should be so much childish or weake of beliefe, as to fire your trust upon the falshood of this ever-deceybing merchant, which hath nothing but shadows and Chymeraes wherewith to incant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a tozetch all covered and beswared with murder and treason, and even to your owne face hath made a scoffe of your Majestie. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a peale of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent shall not beare him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling and false Traitor not long since did betray my wife most shamefully: for it happened upon a Wintersday, that they two travelled together thorow a very great water, and hee perswaded my wife, that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her taile, by letting it hang angle wise in the water a
good

of Reynard the Fox.

good while, whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that halfe a dozen of them should not be able to



debaure it. The silly foole my wife (supposing all to be truth
which came from him) went presently into the mire up to
the belly before she came to the water, and coming into the
depth

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depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her taile down: still in the water, expecting when there the fish would cleave to: but the weather being sharp and frostie) She stood there so long, that her taile was frozen hard to the Ice, so that all the force she had was not able to pull him cut: But when this lustfull villaine beheld that, he presentlie leapt upon her and rabished her, in such brasly and shamefull manner, that no modest eare is able to hear the odiousnesse of the action. My poore wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, crie, and fad upon the byne of her owne teares, but all to no purpose, the deed was done, and the villaine triumphed. This no impudence can make him denie. For I came and tooke him in the action. O how much Jealousie, grieve, and furie assail'd me at that instant, I was eben distract to behold them: and cried Reynard, villaine what art thou doing: but he seeing me so neare approaching, presentlie leapt from her and ran his way. So I went unto her with much sorrow and heavinesse, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her: and in despite of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leave a piece of her taile behind her: and indeed we both hardlie escaped with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, that the people of the next villiage rose up, and came with staves and bills, with hailes, and pitchforkes, and the wives with their distaves, and so fiercelie assailed us: crying, kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I was never in so desperate a taking. One slave amongst the rest, which was strong and swift of foote, hurt us sore with a Pike-staffe: and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of bryones and bryambles, where we hid us from the furie of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murderer hath us'd us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

Alkmar Bk 4. Cap 2.

But Reynard answered and said, if this were true, I confesse it would touch me nere in honour and reputation: but God forbid that ever such a slander should be proved against me:

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me: I confesse I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water and never touch the mire: but her greedynesse so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction, and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen by reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish then would have satisfied twentie reasonable appetites: but it is commonly seen, that who all would have, all foregoe: for covetousnesse seldom bringeth any thing well home: yet when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I used all my best endeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and shoving about her, but to little purpose, for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

The Morall.

By the complaint of the Wolf, is shewed the envy that one ill man bears another, and how loth they are, that any of their contrary faction should scape punishment, and that to gaine revenge,

Now whilest this was in doing, came Negrim, and saying to me so busie about her, Churle-like he most vilely flattered me, like a profuse flatterer, which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but believe it my gracious Lord, all was false, and his wife vertuous, for any thing within my knowledge: whence I am persuaded, that surely his eyes dazzled, for indeed he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatened much rebengement against me, so that more to eschew his blasphemie then furie, I went my way, and he came, and with as great adoe and as much heave and shove he helpt her out: which done, (they then almost starved with cold) ran and scot up and down the fields to get them heat: and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be deposed, for I would not be the father of any falsehood before your Majestie, to be Master of many millions: however my fortunes go, I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath ever bene the Ensigne of all my Ancestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt made of mine assertion, I aske but eight daies liberty, that I may conferre with my learned Councell, and I will so appeare all my words by the oath and testimonie of good and sufficient witnessse, that your Majestie and your honourable Councell shall accord to the justnesse of my presentation. As for the Wolfe, what have I to do with him? it is well known already that he is a debauch and almost notorious

they care not what indignity they do to themselves, as dorth appeare by the Wolfs flandering of his own wife. By the rising of the Towne Wolf and his wife is shewed that one mischiefe seldom cometh to ill folks, but another still followes it at the heeles By the Foxes excuse, is shewed how policy hath ever an evasion or a cloke for any evil it dorth & rising

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can colour every thing with a pretence of goodnesse.

The Foxes contempt of the Wolfe, shewes that the strength of policy consists in disgracing the adverse part, and calling his good name in question, by which meanes he may lose beliefe & credit.

By the the Wolfes falling into the well,

riour villaine false both to heaben and to your Majestie, and not his owne words witnesse him a base slanderer of women: therefore I referre my selfe to the triall of his wife: if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty, provided she may be made free from her husband, whose tyrannie will compell her to saie any thing, though never so unjustly.

At this, forth stept Dame Arsewind, the Wolfes wife, and said: O Reynard, thou hast so slye a smooth tongue, and so dipt in flattery, that no man is safe from thine enchantment: it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me, remember but how thou didst use me at the well with two Buckets, which hanging at one eard, and running thorough one pulley, which ever as one went downe, the other went up. I remember how thou getting into one of them, sel'st down into the bottom of the baell, and there sat'st in great danger and perill, so that I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and make great moane, then asking thee how thou camest there, and thou answerest mee that thou wert there a fishing, and hadst so



much

of Reynard the Fox.

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much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to breake with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee, and thou saidst: Aunt leape into that bucket which hangeth there, and you will be presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier then thy selfe) I fell presently to the bottome of the well, and thou cam'st up to the top: at which token I seemed to be angry, thou said'st, Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world: ever as one comes up: another must goe downe, and so said, you leapt out of the bucket and ranne your way, leaving mee there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger and starved with cold, and ere I could get out from thence, received so many blowes. that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied: Aunt, though the strokes were painefull unto you, yet I had rather you should have them then my selfe, for you are stronger and better able to beare them, and at that time of necessity, one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdome and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he perswades to, is the abyding of his owne perill: for nature teacheth us to love our owne welfare, and hee which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of folly.

shewes the effect of covetousnesse, which never brings any thing home but losse and danger, and that policy cares not who pines, so hee feeles no pain, as appears by the Foxes tempting her into the Bucket.

By their entering into the she Apes Cave is shewed the difference betwixt temperance, & rashnesse, and how farre good words will prevaile before rude and churlish behaviour

Then said dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your Majestie marke how this dissembler can blow with all windes, and paint his mischiefs with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betrayed me to my Aunt the shee Ape, where ere I escaped I was faine to leave one of my mine eares behinde me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides he is apt to catch advantage from the weaknesse of my language) I desire no better evidence against him. When said the Fox, willingly I will doe it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I beseech your Majestie lend me your Royall patience.

Upon a certaine time the wolfe here came to me into the wood, and complained unto me that he was exceeding hungry,

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grie (yet neber saw him fuller in my life) but he would eber
dissenble: at which presently I tooke pittie of him and said,
I was also as hungrie as he: so away he went and trabelled
halfe a day together without finding any thing, then began he
to whine and crie, and said, he was able to goe no further.
Then hard by the foot of a Hathorne Tree, we espied a hole
all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rushing
therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired
the Wolfe to go in and looke if any thing were there to profit
us (for something I knew therewas) then said he, Cousin, I
would not cr  p into the hole for a hundred pounds, till I knew
certainly what was therein, for there may be danger: but if
you please to attempt it, who I know hath both art and wit to
save your selfe, I will stay here under this Tree till you return:
but I beseech you make haste and let me know what is therein
as soon as you perceibe it.

Behold, my dread Lord the King, thus he hath made me per-
illie beast to go before into the hazard, and he who is great,
strong and mightie, did abide without in peace, wherein I ex-
pect no little friendship, for I would not endure the like dan-
ger for a Kingdome: but to proceede, I entred into the hole,
and found the way darke, long and tedious: in the end I spi-
ed a great light, which came in on the further side of the hole,
by which I saw there lying a great she Ape, with eyes glim-
mering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with
long sharp teeth, and on her hands and feet, nailes sharp as an
Ekin or Bodkin. I imagined her at first a Harmozin, or Ba-
boone, or else a Mercat, for a more dreadful beast I neber be-
held in all my life time, and by her side laie diuers of her chil-
dren, which like her self were sterne and cruell of counte-
nance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped
wilde with their mouthes upon me, so that I grew amazed,
and with't my selfe farre from the harbor. But resolving
with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my selfe as
well as I could, I looked more constantlie upon her, and me
thought she appeared bigger then Isegrim the Wolfe, and the
least of her beattes much larger then my selfe (for a fouler
companie

company I neuer saw) they were all laid in foule litter, rotten and durty with their stoney pisse, they were all daubed and clogged with their stoney dung, which stunk so filthy that I was almost poisoned with the smell. For my stoney part I durst not but speak them faire, and therefore I said, Aunt, God giue you many good daies, and blesse you and my Cousins, your prettie children: questionlesse they are the fairest of their ages that euer I beheld, and so surpass in beautie and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most Princelie issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholden to you that doth adde this increase and glorie to your familie. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid downe and delibered, I could not stay but must needs come to visiit you: Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thanke you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation, you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the meanes you worke to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world. I have thought of you euer since they were borne, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with none but the good and the vertuous.

O how glad was I, when I heard those words to proceed from her, which kindnesse was onelie, because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foule kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed, is onely Dame Rukew which standeth ponder: who indeed is the mother of excellent children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foule monster. Aunt my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day shall euer be at your commandment and your children. Yet I most heartily wist my selfe farre from them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their stunk. And I pittied Ilegrim who was soe griped with

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hunger all this while ? and offering to take my leafe, and faining that my wife will thinke it long till my returne, Shee said, Deare Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it kindly if you offer it, then rose shee up, and carried me into an inner roome, where was great store of all kinde of Venison, both the red Deare, fallow Deare and Roe : and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other fowles, that I amazed much from whence such store of meate should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, shee gave me aside and halfe a haunch of a Hind, to carry home to my wife, which I was ahailed to take, but that shee compelled me : and so taking my leafe and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied where an Hegrim lay groaning pittifully: and I asked him how he fared : he said, Wondrous ill, and so extreamely ill, that (deare Nephew) without some meate I die presently : then did I take compassion of him, and gave him my wifes token which preserved his life, and for which then he gave me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extreamely. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said: Reynard, my deare Cousin, what found you in the hole ? beleeve it I am now more hungry then I was before, and this small morsell hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into that hole, and you shall finde store of victuals, for there lieth my Aunt with her children : if you can flatter and speake her faire, you need feare no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I thinke (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit, but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet hee promised to follow my counsell : so forth he went into that foule stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described : which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Oe and alas, I thinke I am come into hell : did
 ebr.

of Reynard the Fox.

ether creature see such fearfull goblins? Drowne them, for shame Drowne them, they are so uglie, they are able to scare the Devil, why they make my haire stand an end with their horrid deformitie. Then (said she) Sir Isgrim, their creation is not my fault, let it suffice, they are my Childzen, and I am their Mother. For ought their beaurie or hard labour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs to day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you, both in birth, virtue, and wisdom, and he accounted them faire and lobely, for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he reply'd (Dame) I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed one mee, then on those uglie Wretches. But she told him, she had no meat: Yes (said he) here is meat enough, and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt start up with her childzen, and ran at him with their sharp nailes, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his eares, and I heard crie and howle so extreamly, that it appeared he had no defence, but to run out of the hole, as fast as he could. For indeed he came out both extreamly beaten, and extreamly bitten, and all his skin cast like a Spanish Jerkin: and one year left behind as a patrone of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently? and he said he had spoke as he found, for the Damme was a foule Bitch, and the Litter most ugly monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and take them for his best of alliance. And he replied he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must alwaies receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise, a lie is sometimes as much available, as a true tale: and faire word neber come out of season, and better then we, hold it for a rule worthy Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red night cap, which I know he cannor, nor dare not denie, for all is true without any addition.

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C H A P. a3.

How *Isegrim* proffered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted, and how *Rukenaw* advised the Fox how to carry himself in the fight.

Alkman B4.C.5

The Wolfe answered the Fox: I may well forbear (false billaine as thou art) thy mocks and scoznes, but thine injuries I will not. Thou say, I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou liest falsely therein, for it was nothing but a Hare bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know in this thou injurest my reputation, againe thou accusest me of treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certaine treasure thou saiest is in Hasterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamie to her name, if it be not rebenged: these things considered, I have forborne you long, therefore now look not to escape, wherefore seeing there is no other testimonie but our owne consciences: here before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my Noble Lords, friends and alliances: here I affirme and will approue to the last drop of my blood, that thou Reynard the Fox art a false Traitor and a murtherer, and this I will approue and make good upon thy bodie within the Lists of the field, bodie against bodie, by which meanes our strife shall have an end and in witness thereof I cast thee here my Globe, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for mine injuries; or else dis like a Kicreant.

Reynard was something perplext when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolfe, and feared to come by the worst: but straight remembryng the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfes fore-clawes were pulled away and that they were not yet fully cured, he said, Whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor or a murtherer I say he lieth in his throat, especially *Isegrim* above all others: poor scold, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in signe whereof I take up the gage, and throw down mine, to approue all thy words lies and falsehoods.

This



This said, the King receiued their pledges, and admitted
the battell, commanding them to put in their sureties, that
the next morrow they should trie the combat: then slept forth
the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolfe: and
for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Brock and Bytelus.

The pleasant History



Alk. m. ar.
134. Cap. 6

The Morall.

By the Wolfes
challenging
the comba of
the Fox, is
shewed the
madnesse of
rage & fury, &
how negligent
it is in respec-
ting its owne
hazard, so it
may do mis-
chiefe to the
adversary.

The Foxes
accepting of it
shewes how
when policy
hath no other
shifting hole,

When all ceremonies were finished, the Ape tooke Reynard aside, and said, Pepheto, I beseech you take care of your selfe in this battell, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a prayer of singular vertue, for him which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholler and Clerke, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good deuotion fasting, shall neuer be overcome in combat, and therefore my best Pepheto be not afraid, for to morrowe I will read it oer to you, and the Wolfe shall neuer prebattell against you. The Fox gabe her many thanks for her labours, and told her his quarrell was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of happy successe: so all that night he rested with his kinsfolkes about him, who dwelt away the time with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukewaw his Aunt, still beat her braine how to worke him aduantage in the combat, wherefore she caused all his haire to be shaven of, even from his head to the taile, and then she anointed all his body quite oer with ople Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the Wolfe

Alk. m. ar.
134. Cap. 6

Wolfe could catch no hold of him: besides hee was round, fat and plump of body, to his much abailed to his advantage: then she advised him that night to drinke exceeding much, that he might be moze apt to pisse in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came fro the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see time fitting, pisse upon your bush taile, and strike it in the Wolfe face, and as neere as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: and by at these especiall times keepe your taile as close as can be betwene your legges, lest hee catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also looke carefully to your selfe at the first and by all meanes shun his blowes, making him to tople and runne after, especially there to where most dust is, and spring it up with your feet, make it flie in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him, to where you may doe him most mischief, eber and anon striking him on the face with your taile full of pisse, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tyre and weary him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt by the losse of his shooes (which you caused to be pulled off) he will not be able to persue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weake. This (Pephto) is mine advice, and assure your selfe in these cases, Art prebailerb as much as courage: therefore regard your selfe well, that not onelie your selfe, but your whole family may gains honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charme of praier which your Uncle Martin taught me) by which you may be invincible, it is this which followeth, then laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorsons, Alsuiurio. Now Pephto, assure your selfe you are free from all mischief or danger whatsoeber, therefore go to your rest, for it is nere dale, and some sleepe will make the bodie better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for eber: and in those holie words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremobeable, and so he laid him downe to rest under a Tree in the grasse, till it was

that then it growes desperate, and will out face any thing to the uttermost danger.

By the thees Apes counsell is wewed, the cure of a true friend, which is then ever most busie, when hee sees his companion in danger, and leaves no way unsought that may free him from trouble.

Some say that differeth in the name.

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was Sun rise : at what time the Otter came unto him and
awaked him, and gave him a fat pong Duck to eat, saying,
Dear Cousin, I have toiled all this night to get this present
for you, which I tooke from a Fowler, here take and eat it,
and it shall give you vigour and course. The Fox gave him
manie thanks and said, it was fortunate hansell, and if he

*hand of
a fowler*



stirbbed

surbited that day, he should find he would requite it: so the Fox ate the Duck without bread or savor, more then his hunger, and to it he drank fouze great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed where the King stood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus shone and oyled, he



The plealant Hiltory

said to him: Well For, I see you are carefull of your stone
safetie: you respect not beautie so you escape danger. The
For answered not a word, but bowing himselfe dovne hum-
bly to the earth, both before the King and the Quenes Maie-
sties, went forth into the Field: and at the same time the
Wolfe was also readie, and stood boasting, and gibing out
many proud and vaine-glorious speeches. The Marshals and
Rulers of the Lists, were the Lybard and the Lolle. These
brought forth a booke, on which the Wolfe swooze and maintai-
ned his assertion, That the For was a Traytoze, and a Mur-
therer, which he would probe on his bodie, or else he counted
a Kereant. Then Reynard took the book, and swooze he lied
as a false Traytoze and a Chief, which he would probe on his
bodie, or he accounted a Kereant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the
Field had them do their debotie. And then every creature a-
boided the Lists, save dame Rukenaw who stood by the For,
and had him remember the wordes and instructions she had gi-
ven him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years
old, he had then wisdome enough to passe the darkest night
without Lanthorne or candle-light, or the help of the Moone,
when any occasion required him: and that his experience was
much greater, and his reputation of wisdome more frequent
with his companions: and therefore to worke so as he might
win the day, which would be an eternall monument to him
and his family for ever. To this the For answered (Ope best
Sunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle
of your counsell. I doubt not but my friends shall reap honoz,
and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said Amen,
and so departed.

of Reynard the Fox.

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CHAP. 24.

Of the combate betwixt the Fox and the Wolfe, the event, passages and victory.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lists, the Wolfe went toward the Fox with infinite rage and furie, and thinking to take the Fox in his forefeet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him and the Wolfe pursued him, so that there began a tedious chase betweene them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolfe taking larger strides then the Fox often overtooke him, and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face with his taile, which was all to be pitt, so that the Wolfe was stricken almost blinde, the pisse smarted so extremly. And he was forced to rest while he glaired his eyes, which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolfe. This grieved him worse then the former, so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes smarted so sore,

allman 184. E 8.

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that of force he must rub and wash it away, which Reynard seeing, with all the furie he had he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said: have I hit you, *Mr Wolfe*? I will yet hit you better, you have kild many a Lambe, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall finde the price of your knavery: I am markt to punish thy finnes, and I will give thee the absolution beabely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy. Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneele downe and aske me forgiveness, and confesse thy selfe vanquished (though thou beest the worse thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my pittie makes me loath to kill thee. These wordes made *Isegrim* both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to expresse his fury, his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and strake the Fox so great a blow, that hee feld him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up againe and encountered the Wolfe, that betweene them began a dreadfull and doubtfull combat. The Wolfe was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyle, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolfe thought to have him surest, he would shift himselfe betwixt his legges and under his bellie, and euerie time gave the Wolfe a bite with his teeth, or a blow on the face with his taile, that the poore Wolfe found nothing but dispaire in the confitt, albeit his strength was much the greater.

This many wounds and hirings passing on either side, the one expressing cunning, and the other strength, the one furie, the other temperance. In the end the Wolfe being enraged, that the battell had continued so long, (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himselfe, I will make an end of this combat, for I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I lose much of my reputation, to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, he struck the Fox againe so sore a blow on the head, with

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with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and arise, he caught him in his feet and threwo him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have prest him to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends also, and all Isengrim's friends began to sport for joy :

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By the Wolves furious assailing the Fox, and the Foxes watching and pursuing of advantage is shewed, the folly of rage & passion, and the discretion of temperance and wisdom, the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety; by the first taile is expressed the sharp afflictions with which wisdom ever punishes rashnes, and by the losse of the Wolves eie, is shewed, that madnesse and rage is ever more but blindnesse. The Wolves catching the Fox, and holding him in his power shewes that Fortune sometimes fa-

but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his clawes, lying a long, and the Wolfe could not hurt him with his clawes, his feet were so sore, onely with his teeth he snatched at him to bite him, which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolfe on the head with his fore-clawes, so that he tore the skin between his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolfe to infinite torment, and he howled out exreamlie: then Isegrim wiping his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his struggling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolfe was angrie, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his armes, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great was their contention, but anger now made the Wolfe forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himselfe, his hand light into Isegrims mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolfe to the Fox, Now either yeld thy selfe as vanquished, or else certainly I will kill thee, neither thy dust, thy piss, thy mocks, nor any subtilie invention shall now save thee, thou art now left utterlie desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this he thought it was a hard election, for both brought his ruine: and suddenly concluding, he said, Deare Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yeld to be your servant, and at your commandments will travell for you to the Holy Land, or anie other Pilgrimage, or do anie service which shall be beneficiall to your soul or the soule of your fore-fathers: I will doe for the King or for our holie Father the Pope, I will hold of you my Lands and revenues, and as I, so shall all the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be a Lord of manie Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: besides, whatsoever I get of Hullaie, Gese, Partridges, or Plover, flesh, or fiesh, you, your wife and childzen shall have the first choice, ere any come in my belly. I will ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you goe, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtil, we two joyned together, what force can prevaile against us?

Againe,

Againe, wee are so neere in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmitie betwene us: I would not have fought against you, had I bene sure of victorie, but that you first appealed me, and then you know of necessitie I must do my uttermost: I have also in this battell ben curteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the durie of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you might well perceibe by my running from you, I tell you, it was an action much contrarie to my nature, for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me, by any thing more then the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorie, and wisht it had not hapned: yet thereby know that you shall reap rather benefit then losse thereby, for taken ether Beast in their sleepe shut two windowes, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children and lineage, they shall fall done at your feet before you in any presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poore Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that abate you, when you shall never live in safetie for feare of revengement of my kindred: therefore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashnesse is ever the mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise, and discret, and you rather seeke honoz, peace, and good fame, then blood and revenge.

Igrim the Wolfe said, Infinite dissembler, how faine wouldst thou be freed of my servitude: too well I understand thee, and know that if thou were free on thy feet, thou wouldst forswear this submission: but know all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransome, for thee and thy friends I esteeme them not, nor beleebe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Line-bush, chaffe cannot deceive me: How wouldst thou triumph if I should beleebe thee, and say I wanted wit to understand thee, but thou shalt know I can look both on this side and beyond thee, thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. Thou saist thou hast spared me in the battell: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how falselie thou liest, thou

vours fooles, but never gives them grace to enjoy the benefit. The Foxes flattering of the Wolfe, shewes, that whensoever wisdom is oppressed, it hath yet still one temperate means or other, to gaine his own liberty, and that faire words do ever either vanquish or astonish. Lastly by the weak Foxes conquering the strong Wolfe, is shewed, that in all these accident of change, neither force, rage nor violence do prevaile so much as wisdom, discretion, and temperate and wary carriage.

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thou neber gapest me a time to breathe in, nor wilt I now gibe thee a minute to repent in, and the rather when I thinke of the dishonour thou didst to my bed, and how inhumanely thou didst ravish my dear wife Dame Arsewinde?

Now whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox bethought himselfe how he might best get free, and thrusting his other hand downe betwene his legges, he caught the Wolfe fast by the flones, and he wzung him so extreemly hard thereby, that he made him szieke and howle out with the anguish: then the Fox dzet his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolfe was in such wondrous torment, that he had much adoe to containe himselfe from sounding: & this torment exceeded aboue the paine of his sie, and in the end he fell ober and ober in a swoound: then presently Reynard leapt upon him, and dzet him about the Liss and dzag'd him by the legges, and struck, wounded and bit him in many places, so that all the whole field might take notice thereof.

At this all Isegrims friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamentation went to the King, and prayed him to be pleased to appease the combat, and take it into his owne hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Lybard and the Lesson (being Marshals) entred the Liss, and told the Fox, and the Wolfe, that the King would speak with them, and that the battell should there end, for he would take it into his owne hands, and determine thereof: as for themselves they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thanke them, and what pleaseth my Lord the King to command I am readie to obey, for mine ambition is no further then to be victor, therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered it was reason: so presently came forth dame Slopecard and Grimbart her husband, dame Rukensaw with her two sisters, Bitelus and Fulrumpe, her two sones, and Malice her daughter, the field House, the Wicafell, and abbe an hundred which would not have come

if

C. 14. C. 9.

of Reynard the Fox.

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if the Fox had lost the conquest : for to him that hath honor, will
ever flock attendants, but to him that is in loss will nothing
but contempt follow. Alas the Fox came to the Webe, the
Otter, and both their wives Paunterrote, and Ordegale and
the Outrole, the Marrin & the Fitchew, the Firret, the Squir-
rell, and a world more then I can name, and all because he
was the victor : nay divers which before had complained of him,
were now of nearest kindred ; and ready to do him all service.
This is the fashion of the world, he that is rich and in favour,
can never be payd or hungrie for friendship. every one will seem
to love him, every one will imitate his fashions.



Then was a solemne feast held, Trumpets were sounded,
Cornets twined, Shatones, and all instruments warbled,
and every one cried, Praised be heaven for this glorious Con-
quest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them
with great joy and gladnesse : then asked their opinions whe-
ther he should yield the victorie to the King or no : and Dame

¶

Slopard

The pleasant History

Slopard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your honour, nor may you denie it. And (so the Marshals going before) they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on euerie side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrells sounding before him.



of Reynard the Fox.

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When Reynard came befoze the King he fel on his knees, and the King bad him stand up, and said to him: Reynard you may wel rejoyce, for you have won much honour this day, therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your owne will leads you, for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it discust by the wisest of the Kingdome, as soone as Hegrim's wounds shal be cured, at what time I will send for you, and so proceed to judgement.

My worthy and dread Lord (said the Fox) I am wel ap- paid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highnesse Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by forning with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolfe had greater favour then I with your Majestie: this was the ground of their indignation, wherewith they shewed their simplicitie, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennell of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghill, where they waited for such as should bring them meat, anon they saw a Hound come out of the kitchen, which had thence brought a goodlie rib of Beef: but the Cooke pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding atway he went with his boorie: but when his fellows perceived him, they called to him, and said: O how much art thou bound to the good Cooke which hath given thee that goodlie bone, so well furnished with flesh: but the Dogge replied, You speake according to your knowledge, and praise me in such sort, as you sawe me befoze with the bone in my mouth: but if you please to looke upon me behind on my buttockes, you shall finde how dearly I paid for it, and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the haire and skinne flayed from his hinder loines: they began to be agast and amazed at his torment, neither would they any more of his fellowship, but fled and ranne away from him. In the same sort, my Lord these false and unsoorthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possesse their

The pleasant History

their desires, and are mightie and remoted: then do they
crag, pill and pole the poore and needy, and eat them up like
so many hunger-starved Hounds, for they are the dogges with
bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them,
but praise all their actions: no man dare offend them, nay,
many assist and help them in their unfortunall actions, onely
that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their ex-
ortions.

☉ (my dear Lord) how can these men go safelie, which
goe thus blinded? or how can they expect but a shamefull
fall, whose steps are so uncertaine? neither can any man pity
them when their toothes are disclosed, but continuall curses
and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction,
many of these have lost their haire (which is their friends) as
the Hound did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs,
but all forsake them as the Hounds did the dogge which was
scalded.

My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this mozell ex-
ample: and it will nothing impair the greatnesse of your ver-
tue, for doubtlesse many of these evill extorting creatures are
under your subjection, both in Townes, Cities, and great
Lords houses, who cut face the poore, and sell away their free-
domes and priviledges, and threaten things upon them, which
they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up
the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but
the ends of such are bilde, and heaven hath for them a judge-
ment: but of these errors I hope none shall justly accuse me,
nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit us nobly from the
same, I fear no creatures accusations, for I will ever be the
For though all my friends swear to the contrarie. My Lord, you
I adore above all mortall creatures living, nor can any wis-
dome divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last
gaspe, and though malice have told your Highnesse the con-
trary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will do to the
last moment.

of Reynard the Fox.

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CHAP. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him
the greatest in his Land, and of his noble returne
home with all his kindred.

The King said Reynard, you are one that owe me ho-
mage and fealtie, and I hope I shall eber enjoy it : And for



The pleasant History

your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my privy Council. Take heed you do not any thing untruly, for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot misse you: for you are a Starre, whose lustre exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the word all you your selfe told me, and be a lover of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breath that creature in any kinde which shall doe you injurie, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of high Bailiffe here I freely bestow upon you; and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King, but he told them it was much short of that he intended to do for their sakes: and advised them all to admonish him to be carefull of his faith and loyalty. This said Dame Rokenaw, Beware it my Lord, we will not faile in that point, neither fear you the contrarie: for should he prove otherwise, we would renounce him. Then the Fox also thanked the King with fair and courteous words saying: (My gracious Lord) I am not worthy of these high honours you do me: yet will ever stand with my service how to deserve them: nor shall my counsell at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Ervine the Bear, Tibert the Cat, and Arsewind and her children, with the rest of their Linage, drove the Wolfe out of the field, and laid him upon soft litter and hay, and covered him all over very warme, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of fife and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgeons. His sickness and weaknesse was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him on the temples

of Reynard the Fox.



The Morall.

By these hon-
ors done to
the Fox byth
Lion, is shew-
ed that seldom
one good for-
tune cometh
withour ano-
ther, and he
that hath once
atchived fame
and renowne,
to him wil the
world fly, and
dignity on dig-
nity shall be
heaped upon
him as on the
contrary parr,
he that is once
fallen, either in
state or repu-
retion, it is a
thing of much
difficulty to see
him advanced
without mira-
cle, for world-
ly men are sa-
d to be like
Dogges,
which when
one of their
owne kind is
downe, all the
rest will fall

ples and under the eies, till he leapt out at his stound, and
bowed so loud that all were amazed which heard him: but
the Physicians gave him Cordials to drinke, and a dormitire
or potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife
telling her there was no danger, or perill of his life. So the
Court brake up, and every Beast returned to his owne home.

Amongst

The pleasant History

tipon him and
worry him.
But wise men
or good men
(for both are
scarce) are said
to be like
Hogs, which
when one of
their kind is
down all the
rest will pre-
sently assist
and help him.

For any thing
else contained
in this Chap-
ter, it is either
Moralized by
the speeches
of the Fox, or
else by the
Author.

Amongst the rest Reynard the Fox took his leaue of the King and Quene, he desired him not to be long absent fro m them. To whom he answered, that he would be eber readie at their serbice, as was his bounden durie, and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And to begging licence of his Majestie in all solemn manner and with faire speech, he departed from the Court.



Reynard

Quene

of Reynard the Fox.

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Was neber creature that eber flattered braber oz to better purpose, for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the eight liberall Science, And no Lord, either Spirituall oz Tempozall but would have an eare open to his language. For died he without issue, for he hath childzen almost in all places.

And indeed he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper as the world goeth: Though he want his heire, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plaine-dealing is now an exile, and cobetousnesse and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements: not the Popes Palace, the Court of Emperours, Kings and Princes cannot be excused of this error.

Honey is now grown the onely Favourite of the times, the very Church Idoll, and the Countrey worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things: And mad men travaile over the world to gaine this folly, this fashion: Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

As his is the worlds custome, and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge oz imagine: Onely that these hainouse sinnes of falshood, Theft, Murther, and Ambition, can neber walke but hand in hand with Judgement: From which I heartily pray that the hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walke in those pathes which shall be fitable to vertue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdoes are no fit Theame for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to gibe an account for his owne burthen.

With Reynard all his friends and kinsfolkes to the number of fortye, tooke their leave also of the King, and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature that he had sped well, and stood so far in the Kings favour: for now he had power enough to aduance whom he pleased, and pull downe any that envied his fortune.

Alkmar. B4. c. 13

¶

After

The pleasant History

After some travell, the Fox and all his friends came to his
Borough or Castle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble
and courteous manner) tooke leave of other, and Reynard did



to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for the
love and honour he had received from them, protesting ever-
more to remaine their faithfull servant, and to send them in
all

of Reynard the Fox.

all things wherein his life or goods might be abailable unto them : and so shooke hands and departed.

The For went in to Dame Ermelin his wife, who welcomed him with great tendernes : And to her and her Children, he related at large all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court, and with no ritle or circumstance therein. Then grete they proue that his fortune was so excellent : and the For spent his daies from thenceforth (with his wife and children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the For) more or lesse then you have heard : I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports. Onely this which you have already heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure : Or if any refuse, he shall not notwithstanding be accounted an Heretick, since he that onely saith it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this world believe the things they have not seen.

*William,
from Richmond.*

Besides, there are many Plates both Cornick and Morall, which figure out things that never were, only to make use and benefit of the example : That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Vertues. In like manner this Book, though it containe but matter of jest and sport, yet if he look seriously thereunto, he may haply find much Morall matter and wisdome, worthy his consideration. Goodnesse nor any Good then shall be found in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his owne part as his conscience shall instruct him : If any find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment : If any be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stumbling : And if any take dislike or offence, let him not blame me, but the For, for it is only his language. But if all things suit to my wisht imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the world with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Moralls.

*For this Edition added
by the Author of the
Second Part.*





A

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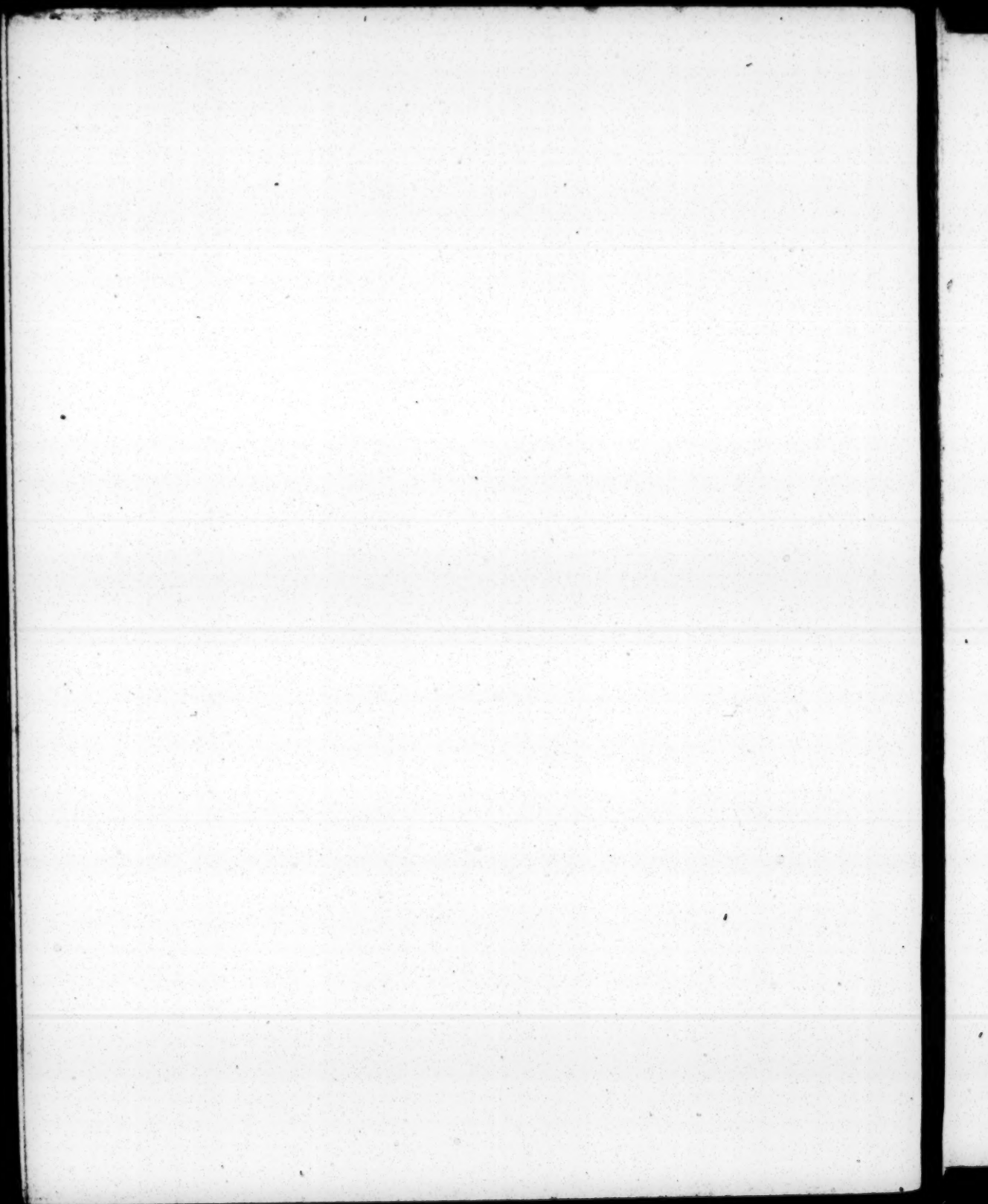
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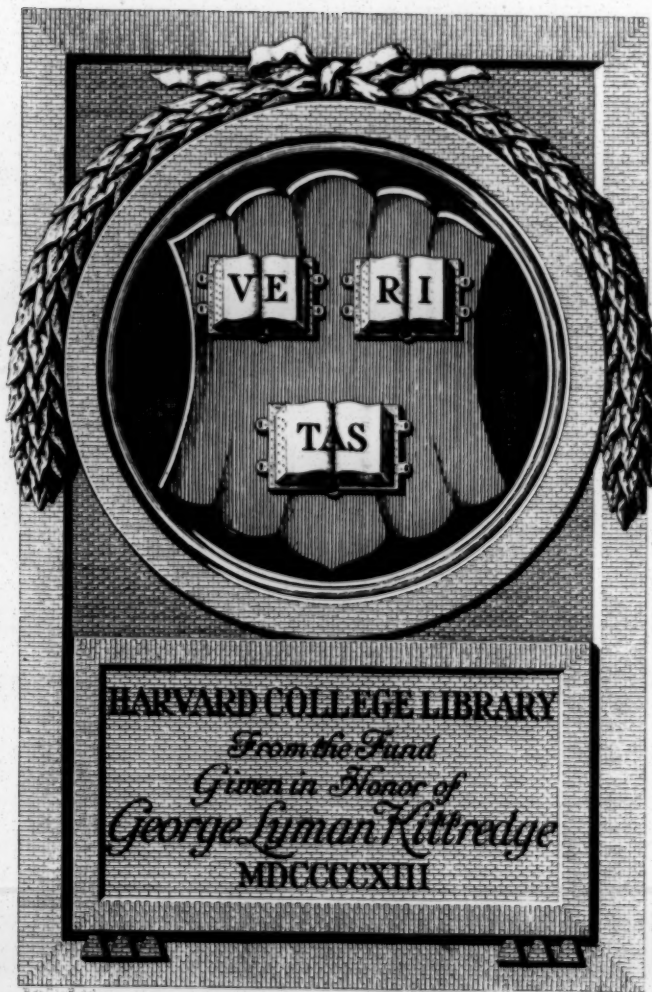




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